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REPORT ON

MADISON COUNTY

IT'S HISTORY
OPERATION
AND FINANCES

Ala.

Compliments of

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By

R. S. Stone



143RD ANNIVERSARY
DECEMBER 13, 1951

Compiled By
JAMES R. RECORD
County Auditor

Madison County

LEGEND	
	ORIGINAL INDIAN BOUNDARY LINE
	NEW BOUNDARY BY ACT OF FEB. 6, 1818
	BOUNDARY EXTENSION TO FLINT RIVER 1819
	BOUNDARY EXTENSION 1837
	BOUNDARY REDEFINED ACTS 1826, 1841, 1887



MAP OF
MADISON COUNTY
ALABAMA
SHOWING ORIGINAL BOUNDARY

G.W. JONES & SONS, ENGRS.
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS OF MADISON COUNTY

In an effort to be of service to you, and in order to picture to you the status of your County, past and present, we are releasing this report, which will give you an insight into the facts, figures, problems and activities of Madison County and its government. In our opinion, this report will represent an important milestone in the history of Madison County progress, it marking the first time that an attempt has been made to fully inform the general public on the vital matter of our County government, and to comprehensively cover such a large variety of County information as is presented.

Today our whole National structure is dependent, more than ever before, upon the efficiency and stability of local government—inasmuch as more responsibility is being passed to it than at any time in history. County government is now big business, and every stockholder—you being one—ought to know the important facts about how it runs and how it serves you.

It is the sincere desire of this board that you read this report in its entirety. After all, we represent you, and the better informed you are, the better we can represent you, and do the job that needs to be done.

Respectfully,

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROY L. STONE, Chairman

JOE QUICK, Commissioner, District No. 1

R. C. SHELTON, Commissioner,
District No. 2

DR. JAMES L. CARPENTER, Commissioner,
District No. 3

JAMES H. TURNER, Commissioner,
District No. 4



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN BY READING THIS REPORT

A report about Madison County must necessarily contain much information about its finances, road building, historical data, and related matters. However, realizing that the average citizen does not care to read anything which appears to be merely a mass of technical data, I have endeavored to present the highpoints of our County history and activities. Facts only are presented, and in such form as to enable the reader to draw his own conclusions.

Section One of this report attempts to acquaint the reader with a physical picture of our County, its natural resources, scenic interest, and otherwise why it is attractive to its residents and visitors.

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Section Two relates pertinent historical data with which all our County residents should be both familiar and proud.

Section Three explains the governmental organization of the County, and describes the duties of the various County agencies.

Section Four gives the layman's viewpoint of the financial history of the County.

Section Five lists a considerable number of other pertinent facts and statistics which I consider to be valuable reference material.

There was a time in the early history of our County when every man of intelligence and culture looked upon it as a duty and privilege to take some active part in its government; but until recently the attitude had changed considerably toward a tendency to let government "go its own way". However, in the last few years the trend appears to be towards that of the early days, and rightfully so. We should feel that the County government is a part of us and should be interested in all its undertakings. Consequently, if this report should fortunately serve to reawaken the readers consciousness of interest in County affairs, then it will have served its purpose.

JAMES R. RECORD
County Auditor



SECTION I

What Does Madison County Look Like?



AERIAL VIEW, DOWNTOWN DISTRICT OF COUNTY SEAT, HUNTSVILLE, 1950



ANTE BELLUM HOME, MERIDIAN PIKE, 1950. THIS HOME IS 107 YEARS OLD AND WAS TEMPORARILY UTILIZED AS A HOSPITAL DURING THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR. DURING THE CIVIL WAR ITS SPACIOUS LAWNS FURNISHED SPACE FOR HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS' TENTS.

ENRICHMENT of community living is the purpose of County Government in Madison County as it is throughout the United States. Thus it is the task of your County officials to provide efficient and expert service to the citizens of our County so as to make it a better place in which to live.

Government, however, can not perform this task without the aid of other factors. The residents of Madison County are fortunate that their physical, economic, and social conditions are so favorable to the accomplishment of this goal. Located at the hub of the Tennessee Valley, Madison County consists of a network of valleys and low divides that give the County a low, rolling landscape relieved here and there by hills and isolated mountains, with an average height of 620 feet above sea level for the entire County. The highest point in the County's 814.38 square miles (521,202 acres) is famed Monte Sano Mountain, lying at the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, and reaching a height of 1601 feet above sea level.

CLIMATE

One of the things that insures healthful and pleasant living in Madison County is the prevailing climate. Temperatures are moderate throughout the year, and the seasons are characterized by long summers, short winters, and beautiful autumns and springs. The average temperature year-round is 61 degrees. Rainfall is ample for the growth of crops and is well distributed during the year.

TRANSPORTATION

Two railroads, four bus, and five motor truck freight companies serve the residents of the County while broad modern highways radiate in all directions to provide swift and comfortable means of transportation. In addition, Madison County—sometimes known as the Air Center of North Alabama—encompasses a large municipal airport, used regularly by two airlines. A local bus line in the City of Huntsville, the County seat, serves not only the residents of the City but those of its outlying areas. The bus system replaced the old street car lines (which first began operation in 1899) in 1931. And, finally, it is expected that commercial port facilities will become available permanently on the Tennessee River, the southern boundary of the County.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The people of Madison County are predominantly young. One-third of the population is under fifteen years of age, and over one-half is under twenty-five. To ensure these people the proper development and care, the County has one of the most up-to-date school systems in the State of Alabama and youngsters in the rural areas are transported to school by modern buses. Further training beyond the high school level is afforded by two business colleges and the University of Alabama extension center, located in Huntsville. Two institutions, the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical Institute and Oakwood College, provide higher education facilities for Negroes. The A & M College is the oldest Negro college in the State, having been formed in 1873, and also is one of the most beautiful.

The facilities for spiritual development in the County are excellent as religious education and worship are provided by practically every denomination. The deeply religious character of Madison's people may be noted, in fact, by the abundance of Churches throughout the County.

AMUSEMENT AND RECREATION

Characteristic of the cooperative spirit of Madison's people is the joint effort of both public and private agencies to give the County a large and varied recreation and amusement program. Within the County there are two Y.M.C.A.'s, a Dude Ranch and Riding Academy, a Country Club with one of the Nations finest Golf Courses, three Radio Stations, four Athletic Fields, a National Guard Armory, Naval Reserve Armory, three Modern Hotels, and five Motels, eight Theaters—one of which is a drive-in—and many private fraternal organizations and clubs. A large Boat Harbor, which will offer fishing, camping and picnicking facilities, and storage for large and small boats, is practically completed. This will more than satisfy the needs of the water sportsman. Monte Sano (Indian name for Mountain of Health) State Park, consisting of about 2,000 acres, has become one of the most popular tourist resorts in the South, as indicated by the fact that over 100,000 persons visited it in 1949. It

has ten miles of bridle paths, ten acres of picnic grounds and fifteen rustic cabins with modern conveniences, as well as a Dude Ranch and Riding Academy. The saga of Monte Sano recounted presents a changing picture: From an inn and row of log cabins in 1830; an early female academy from 1829 to 1833; the town of Viduta (life giving) formed in 1833; coal mining; a large famous hotel from 1887 to 1900 reached partly by a railway considered too hazardous to attract passengers, but nevertheless patronized by nationally famous persons; decades of popularity as a vacation and health spot; extensive development by individuals and the State and County; to a present unprecedented wave of popularity. All of this, combined with the many Indian legends surrounding the mountain, has combined to make Monte Sano one of the more historic spots in our State. Too, in 1898, it was declared by the Surgeon General of the U. S. to be the second healthiest place in the U. S.



CABIN IN MONTE SANO STATE PARK, 1950. THESE CABINS ARE RENTED TO THE PUBLIC AT A LOW RATE.



BOATING ON THE TENNESSEE RIVER, WHICH IS THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE COUNTY.

In Huntsville there are numerous parks and playgrounds, the largest of which is centrally located. These parks offer badminton, swimming, baseball, football, shuffleboard, slides, picnicking areas, fishing rodeos, and other forms of recreation.



MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL, HUNTSVILLE BIG SPRING PARK 1949.

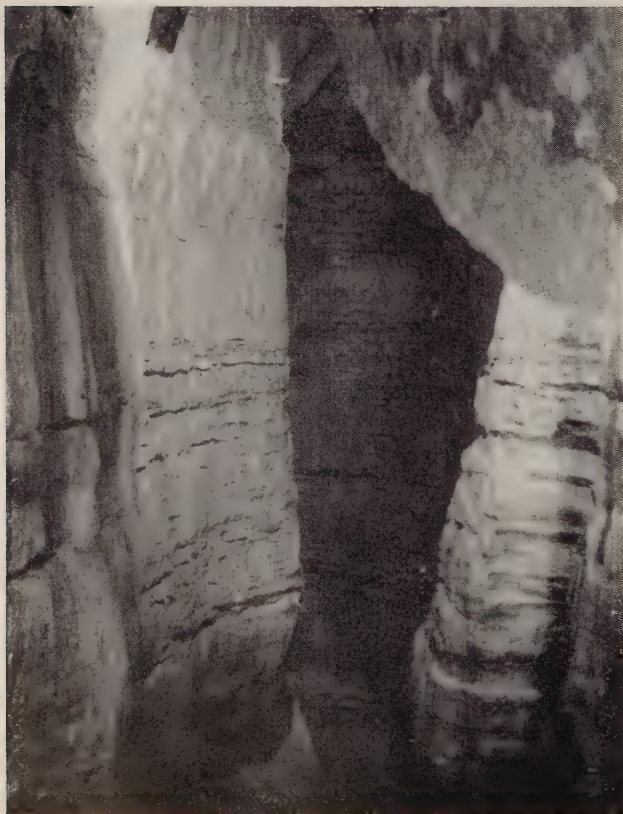
The County itself is located near the center of the reputed world's largest inland fresh-water fishing preserve. Nearly 2,000 miles of lakeshore are within a few miles of the County. These features combine to make a fisherman's paradise. Ample game will also be found for the hunter.



A PICTURE OFTEN SEEN BY MADISON COUNTY HUNTERS.

Perhaps the most important form of recreation is derived from the County's picturesque beauty. A tour of the County will reveal scenic highways with flower decked hillsides; green, cultivated fields; swift, clear streams; and charming homes of the old South. In many of these white-pillared, ante-bellum plantation mansions is preserved the stateliness and grace of an historic period. Many of them are famous because their hospitality has been enjoyed by many famous Americans. A list of the notable personalities who have enjoyed the County's hospitality is given here for its historical significance. Presidents Andrew Jackson, James Monroe, Andrew Johnson and William Polk; Generals John J. Pershing, U. S. Grant, Joe Wheeler; Industrialists Wm. Vanderbilt, John Jacob Astor, Wm. Waldorf Astor, Jay Gould; Authors Harriet Beecher Stowe, Jere Clements, Helen Keller and Rupert Hughes; Carrie Nation of prohibition fame; Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America; William Jennings Bryan, the Silver Tongued Orator; Booker T. Washington, the famous Negro leader and educator; and the infamous Aaron Burr, Vice President of the U. S., who duelled with and killed the patriot Alexander Hamilton.

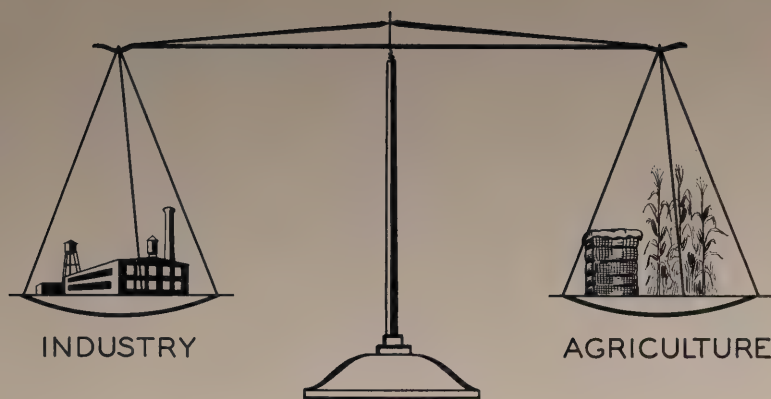
Many natural wonders may be seen in the County, such as the natural cavern on Monte Sano known as "Natural Well". This well is estimated by Geologists to be over 50 million years old and may be turned into a leading attraction with a small amount of promotion and development. Other natural wonders include Shelter Rock, Wildcat Glenn, Brigands Cavern, Vanishing Falls, Hell's Half Acre, Chalybeate Spring, Cold Spring, Alum Spring, Magnesia Spring, Lover's Leap, Fat-Man's Misery, Shelta Cavern, with its many stalactites and stalagmites; Inspiration Point, Round Top, and Braham Spring. With the exception of Shelta Cavern, located near the Country Club and east of Pulaski Pike—and Braham Spring—located near Huntsville Park—all of these wonders are located on Monte Sano.



VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF "NATURAL WELL",
OVER 50 MILLION YEARS OLD, ON MONTE SANO
MOUNTAIN.



TIMES OFFICE BUILDING IN HUNTSVILLE—(FOR
ITS SIZE A "CITY OF SKYSCRAPERS".)



ECONOMY

The economic base of a community determines its health and virility. Madison's economy, while predominantly agricultural, is sufficiently balanced and diversified to assure stability. It is an expanding economy.

The Agricultural segment of the economy, at one time dependent almost entirely on cotton, has been developed to a gratifying degree, and now features such things as livestock production, dairying, and grain production. At the same time, the County has continued to lead the state in cotton production and in use of cover crops that build up supplies of nitrogen and organic matter in the soil. The farmer's progress in the production of corn has been exceptional. Ten years ago, yields of 100 bushels to the acre was unheard of, but it is fairly common today. In fact, this might well be termed the greatest single agricultural advancement in the County for the last decade. It has been accomplished by the introduction of hybrid corn suited to the local climate and by better management and production practices. It has become significantly notable that the farmers have, for the most part, progressed to the scientific method of farming—a far cry from the superstitions of earlier days—and science and machines have doubled our agricultural ability to produce in the last fifty years. Each acre is producing 89% more, and each worker 115%. The next half century may see it double again, with the soil conservation practices and modern methods being utilized as they are today.



"KING" COTTON PICKING TIME IN MADISON COUNTY. (NOTE THE MECHANICAL PICKERS IN THE BACKGROUND).

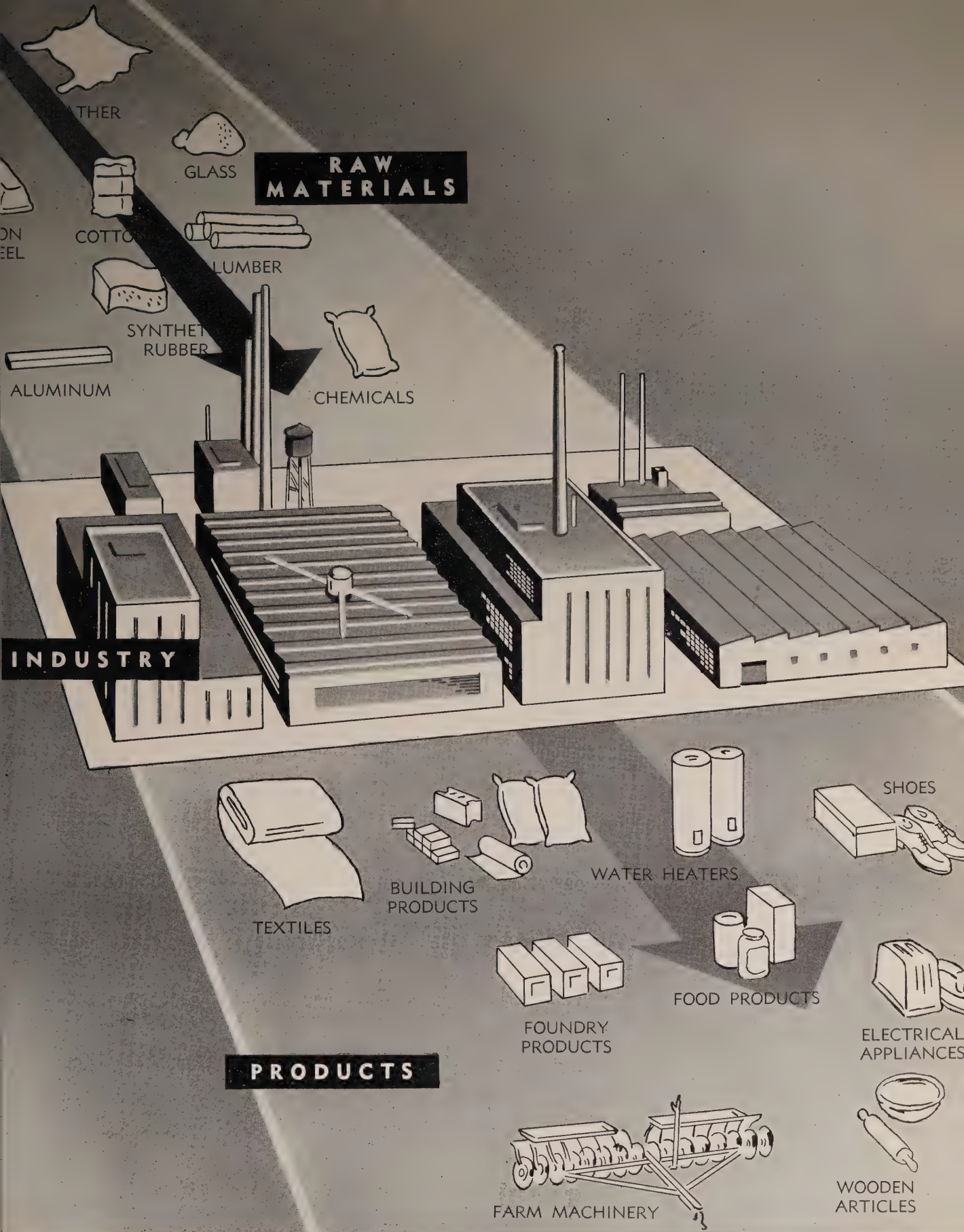
The industrial segment of Madison's economy is marked by its continued development and expansion. However, it was not until the latter part of the last century that the first real progress was made. At this time the industrial economy was given a transfusion by the introduction of a large amount of Eastern Capital. Up until that time there was much conflict between agricultural and industrial interests because the large planters were afraid that industrial wages would affect farm wages adversely. This is still true, to a small extent, but statistics of agricultural income have conclusively proven the fallacy of such shallow reasoning.



REDSTONE ARSENAL BOAT DOCK NEAR FARLEY, 1950.



TYPICAL CATTLE HERD IN MADISON COUNTY, 1950.



INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS OF MADISON COUNTY

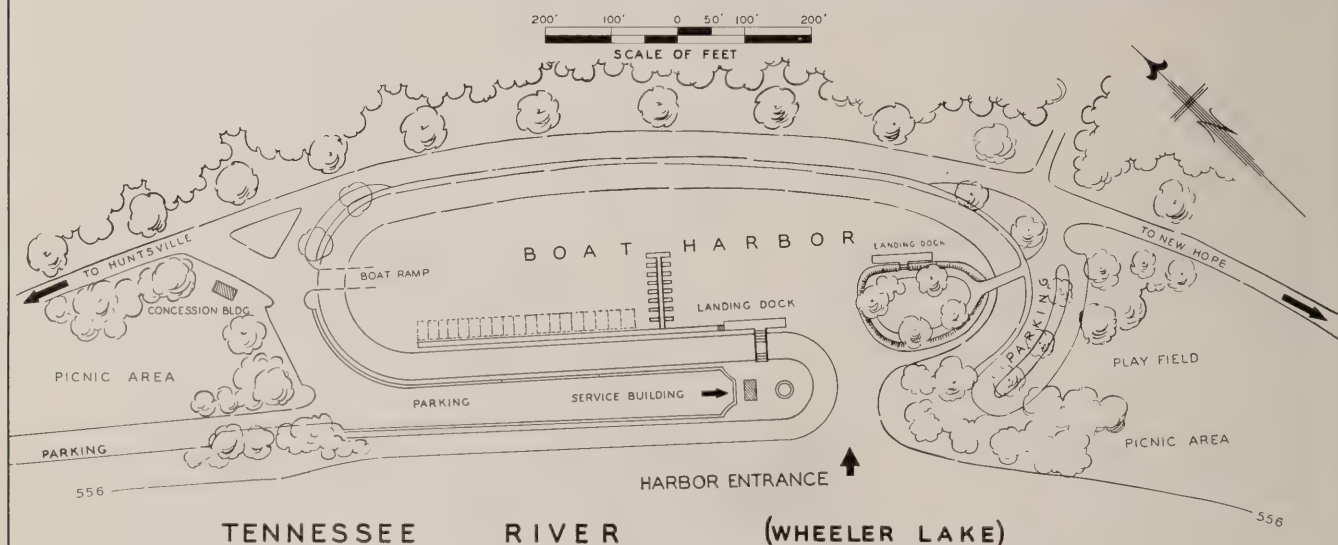
Huntsville, as the focal point of this industrial segment, is a large retail trading center (8 million persons are in a 200 mile radius). Too, within the last decade, there has been a marked increase of plants and factories. These industries, producing over fifty different types of industrial products, coupled with the older cotton factories, large nurseries, water cress growing, and the great U. S. government arsenals—concerned with ordnance, chemical products, rocket research, and guided missile de-



NIGHT SCENE, HUNTSVILLE'S JEFFERSON ST., LOOKING SOUTH, 1950

velopment—have greatly increased the industrial payroll and business activities of the County. While the County ranks seventh in population and twentieth in area, it is the seventh largest market in Alabama—in terms of retail sales. This gives the residents of Madison County one of the largest average incomes in the State; and the relative worth of the income is even greater due to comparatively low taxes, low-cost electric power, (lowest residential rate in the State) and abundant water supplies. Also, low cost natural gas will be available in 1951.

MADISON COUNTY - PLEASURE BOAT HARBOR





FOUR LANE HIGHWAY LEADING INTO HUNTSVILLE, 1950

This, then, is Madison County. Being in Alabama—part of the so-called Deep South—much has been said about its magnolias, folkways, dialects and plantation homes, but today it is a community of young, progressive people, whose economic well-being is based on a sound and expanding foundation. It is a community surrounded by intellectual, spiritual, and physical beauty, where antebellum homes, factories and scientific farming symbolize the County's dual personality. Madison County looks with pride upon its past accomplishments and its glorious past, and is even more determined to continue its program to make the community a better and more prosperous place in which to live.



PARTIAL VIEW OF PICNIC AREA, MONTE SANO STATE PARK, 1950

COMMUNITY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



(COURTESY HUNTSVILLE AIR SERVICE AND BRYSON STUDIO)

- 1 TONEY
- 3 FARLEY
- 5 MADISON CROSS ROADS

- 2 GURLEY
- 4 MONROVIA
- 6 TRIANA

COMMUNITY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



(COURTESY HUNTSVILLE AIR SERVICE AND BRYSON STUDIO)

- 1 NEW MARKET
- 3 MADISON
- 5 HAZEL GREEN

- 2 CHASE
- 4 LILLY FLAGG
- 6 OWENS CROSS ROADS

COMMUNITY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



(COURTESY HUNTSVILLE AIR SERVICE AND BRYSON STUDIO)

1 MERIDIANVILLE
3 HOBBS ISLAND
5 JEFF

2 NEW HOPE
4 MAYSVILLE
6 HARVEST

COMMUNITY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



- 1 LINCOLN
- 3 WEST HUNTSVILLE
- 5 DALLAS

- 2 HUNTSVILLE PARK
- 4 SOUTH HUNTSVILLE
- 6 VIDUTA (on Monte Sano)



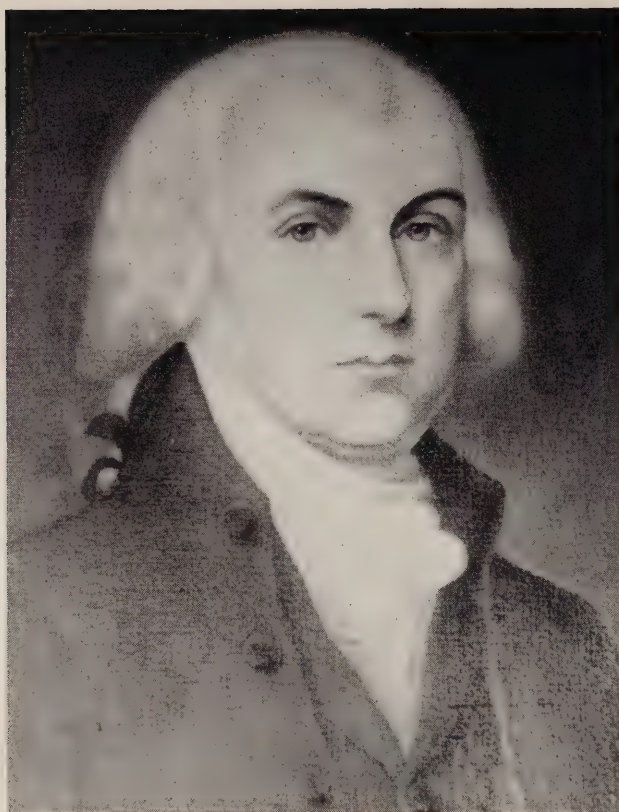
SECTION II

Historical Sketch



MONTE SANO HOTEL, NATIONALLY FAMOUS RESORT OF THE LATE 1800's. (PICTURE COURTESY D. C. MONROE—
MONROE PRINTING CO.)

EXCAVATION OF INDIAN BURIAL MOUND NEAR FARLEY. (PICTURE COURTESY DR. WALTER JONES, STATE GEOLOGIST.)



JAMES MADISON, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE U. S., FOR
WHOM MADISON COUNTY IS NAMED.

THE FIRST DRY LAND in Madison County appeared in pre-Cambrian times—the ancient era when simple life forms were first beginning to stir in the earth's warm shallow seas. As the early periods of the Paleozoic era passed, the earth folded along the eastern part of the United States from Central Alabama to Labrador—forming a newer Appalachian Range. In this way the land embracing Madison County was formed. Eons later, during the Glacial Epoch, many prehistoric land animals, driven south by the great ice sheet, roamed over the region. Huge hairy elephant-like mastodons grazed in the valleys and tramped out trails over the ridges, over which bison and other modern animals roamed centuries later. Probably it was along these age-old paths that the first wandering bands of Indians came into the County to begin its “age of man”. Supporting this conclusion are archaeological remains of prehistoric Indians in Madison County that have been found in recent years, particularly along the Tennessee River. These centuries old shell middens which have been unearthed contain the oldest human remains thus far discovered in Alabama—remains of a Stone Age folk known as the Shell Mound people—who inhabited the County centuries ago.

Legend has it that Indians moved out of the County in the eighteenth century and used it only as a hunting ground thereafter. Be that as it may, historical records indicate that probably the first white men to put foot on the soil of Madison County were the explorers of Hernando de Soto (discoverer of the Mississippi River) in quest of gold and other riches. No other records can be found to substantiate any other indication of the appearance of white men in the County until the period 1801 to 1806, when a series of cessions by the Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians brought the early permanent settlers to the County. Although no other record of occupancy appears, Spain did claim the area until 1702, at which time they ceded it to France. From that time the land was claimed by France until 1763, and by England from 1763 to 1782, at which time England ceded it to the United States, as a result of the American Revolution. At this time, Georgia, one of the thirteen original colonies, laid claim to the area, and in 1794, over the protest of President George Washington, sold the area to the Tennessee Land Company for around two cents per acre. This company in turn sold most of the land involved to various individuals, mostly in sales of one thousand acre tracts. However, in 1802, Georgia, spurred on by the indignant protests of its citizens concerning fraud attending the sale, declared this prior sale illegal, and ceded the area to the national government. Many land disputes arose because of this, but the government conducted land sales, and title possessions appear to have been settled amicably, for the most part.

The early settlers of the land apparently began to first settle permanently in the County in 1804, this year marking the date the first settlers cabin was built in the County, near the site of New Market in the northeastern part of the County. These early pioneers were necessarily a “Jack of all Trades” and the woman of the house was expected to be equally proficient in her duties. While the male traded, trapped, and tilled the soil with hand-made tools, the wife worked long hard hours over the spinning wheel—many of which have been preserved in the County.

The period 1804-1808 was marked by a rapid influx of settlers, and on December 13, 1808, Madison County was officially created a County by proclamation of the Governor of the Mississippi Territory, of which Madison County was a part. The County was named after James Madison, then Secretary of State, and later President. (an oil painting of President Madison, donated to Madison County by the American Legion, can be seen in the Circuit Court room). The County was the second formed in Alabama, and is unique among the sixty seven Counties in that it is the only County in the State ever to have its boundaries enlarged. The original County boundaries were in the form of a rough triangle (see inside front cover), with its apex on the Tennessee River, its west boundary being the Chickasaw Indian boundary line running in a northwesterly direction from the Triangle's apex, and its east boundary being the Cherokee Indian boundary line running in a northerly direction from the triangle's apex. The northern boundary was, as it still is, the State of Tennessee line.

In 1809, a commission was formed “to fix the most convenient place to establish the public buildings of the County”, and construction of the first courthouse was begun in 1810. During construction a log cabin was used for holding court. This first courthouse was located slightly north-east of the present building, which is situated at the center of Huntsville's original city limits, and was a square brick building. It served for almost two decades, and in addition to housing the various

constitutional offices of the County, also housed the public library and market house. Here, too, were found the main implements of justice of that day, namely a pillory, stocks and whipping posts.

In 1838 the first courthouse was sold at auction and construction of the second courthouse was begun on the site of the present building. The cost of this building, reminiscent of the Greek Parthenon, was \$31,000. It served for approximately seventy years. In 1912, because of a depleted condition and the necessity for larger accommodations, it was decided to raze this building and the present structure was built at a cost of \$85,000 for building and furnishings. This courthouse is recognized as one of the most striking examples of Colonial architecture in the South. The pure stone columns adorning the four sides of the building were shipped via rail from Illinois. The building has been cited by the Historic American Buildings Survey Committee as "possessing exceptional historic or architectural interest and as being worthy of most careful preservation for the benefit of future generations".

In addition to the courthouse, public buildings include the jail, courthouse annex and market house (curb market). The first jail was located on the northeast corner of the present square until 1832, at which time it was moved to the corner of East Clinton and Greene streets in Huntsville. However, in 1929 a new jail was erected on Huntsville's North Washington street at a cost of \$84,000, and is still in use. The courthouse annex, commonly known as the Elks' building, was purchased in 1937 for \$20,000, and is located on Eustis street, one block east of the courthouse. While a small part of the annex is rented to private business, it supplements the courthouse in providing office space for numerous County, State and Federal governmental agencies. The first Market house, commonly called the curb market, was located in the basement of the courthouse until 1838, at which time it was moved to the west side of the square, and later in 1935 moved to its present location at the northwest



ARTIST'S DRAWING OF THE 2ND COURTHOUSE TO SERVE MADISON COUNTY (1838-1912). IT WAS DEMOLISHED TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE PRESENT BUILDING BECAUSE OF A DEPLETED CONDITION AND THE NECESSITY FOR LARGER ACCOMMODATIONS. (PICTURE COURTESY HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 WASHINGTON D. C.
 THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE
 HISTORIC BUILDING
 KNOWN AS
 MADISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE
 IN THE COUNTY OF
 MADISON
 AND THE STATE OF
 ALABAMA
 HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE
 HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 AS POSSESSING EXCEPTIONAL
 HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL
 INTEREST AND AS BEING WORTHY
 OF MOST CAREFUL PRESERVATION
 FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE
 GENERATIONS AND THAT TO THIS
 END A RECORD OF ITS PRESENT
 APPEARANCE AND CONDITION
 HAS BEEN MADE AND DEPOSITED
 FOR PERMANENT REFERENCE IN THE
 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ATTEST
E. J. Hall
 District Officer



Harold E. Parks
 Secretary of the Library

CITATION GIVEN THE PRESENT COURTHOUSE BUILDING



COUNTY JAIL, 1950



PUBLIC LIBRARY, NW CORNER GATES AND MADISON STREETS, HUNTSVILLE, WITH A VIEW OF THE LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE. THIS LIBRARY IS THE OLDEST CONTINUING LIBRARY IN THE STATE, AND OPERATED THE 1ST BOOKMOBILE IN THE U. S.



INTERIOR VIEW, "CURB MARKET", 1950

corner of Gallatin street and Fountain Row (Bank street) in Huntsville. Too, for a few years the Market House was located on the site of the present Twickenham Hotel.

The history of the clock within the courthouse dome indicates the care taken of County property by the Commissioners Courts, the court having appointed for a number of years a "Keeper of the Clock". It is presently maintained by the Maintenance Superintendent of the County buildings and grounds. This clock, known to old-timers as the "Town Clock", was purchased in 1849, and although allowed to deteriorate during the World War II years, was renovated by the present Commissioners court, and now, during its 102nd year, peals out the time of day hourly. Many persons use it as their time check.

Indicative of the influence and importance of Madison County is the fact that in 1812, it had over one-half of the entire population of the area that was later to be formed as Alabama, but at that time being part of the Mississippi Territory. Its County seat, Huntsville, at one time named Twickenham after the poet Alexander Pope's English estate, (named by Leroy Pope, "Father of Huntsville," so called because he owned most of the town in its earlier days), was the first English settled town in Alabama. It is one of Alabama's most interesting cities and is a delightful combination of the Old South and the New, where a rich and eventful past blends with the progress of modern life. The city, named for John Hunt, the first settler in the community, is situated virtually in the center of Madison County in an inland valley formed by Monte Sano mountain, Madkin mountain, Rainbow mountain, and Logan's Peak. Huntsville's "Big Spring", source of the present water supply, formed the nucleus for the South's first public water system, and has been a landmark of interest to visitors for generations. It emerges from a steep cliff, partly in geyser form, and has a daily output of several million gallons. Huntsville Cave, a short distance from the spring, is a great natural curiosity and affords the mineralogical student a field rich in limestone formations and fossil remains. Huntsville is also known as "The City of Dogwoods" as hundreds of these beautiful trees have been planted since 1942, when the project was begun.



HUNTSVILLE'S WORLD FAMOUS "BIG SPRING" IN 1859—BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR.



HUNTSVILLE'S WORLD FAMOUS "BIG SPRING" IN 1949.



ANTE BELLUM HOME, WILLIAMS ST., HUNTSVILLE, 1950. (NOTE OLD SLAVE QUARTERS ON THE RIGHT)



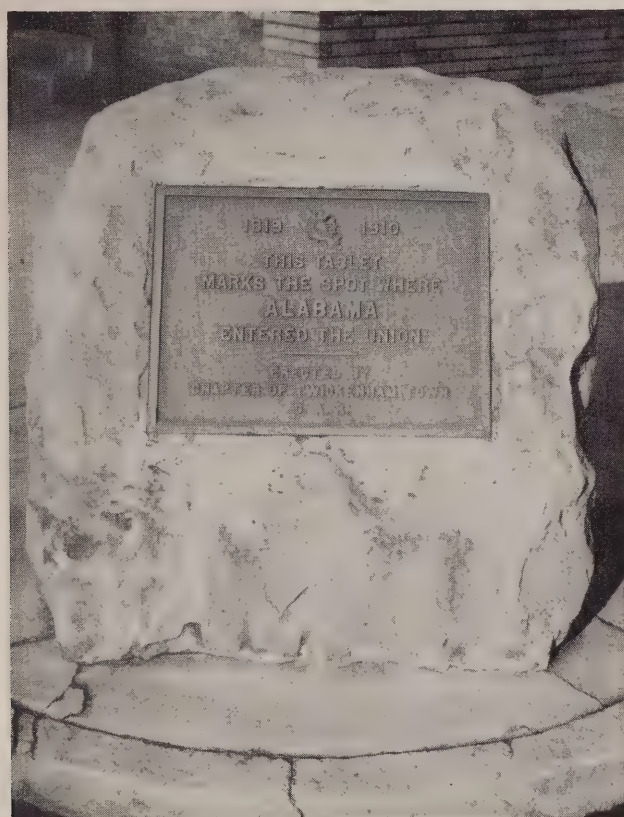
AERIAL VIEW OF HUNTSVILLE, 1950. AS CAN BE SEEN, HUNTSVILLE NESTLES BETWEEN MOUNTAINS, AND FOR THAT REASON HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED A CYCLONE OR TORNADO.



• EAST SIDE COURTHOUSE SQUARE, CIVIL WAR DAYS IN 1862, DURING HUNTSVILLE'S OCCUPANCY BY FEDERAL TROOPS.
(PICTURE COURTESY D. C. MONROE—MONROE PRINTING CO.)

• EAST SIDE SQUARE IN 1950

In 1819, Huntsville was selected as the site of the first State Constitutional Convention of Alabama, following admittance of the State to the Union in that year, and served as the temporary first capital of Alabama. Prior to this time (1817-1819) the County was a part of the Alabama Territory. Thus the residence of a preponderance of the State's early population and the location of the infant State's governmental structure in Madison, gave it the title of "Mother County of Alabama".



PROBABLY THE MOST FAMOUS HISTORICAL MARKER
IN THE STATE, LOCATED AT CORNER OF FRANKLIN
AND GATES STS. IN HUNTSVILLE

Numerous "firsts" are on record for Madison County. Here was the state's first cotton mill, cotton factory, ice factory, flour mill, river canal, bank, newspaper, public waterworks, hostelry, chartered masonic lodge, land office, Baptist church, Presbyterian church, bookmobile, rural electric line, and many others. Among County residents have been the first Governor, (Wm. Bibb) first U. S. congressman, (John Crowell) first Secretary of War in the Confederate States of America, (Leroy Pope Walker) first commander of the troops of the "Republic of Alabama" (Jere Clements) during the Civil War, and the first State Commissioner of Agriculture (E. C. Betts). Too, it was the home of a famed physician, Dr. Thos. Fearn, (who discovered the nature of quinine—thus introducing the cure of malaria), and of the famed actress, Tallulah Bankhead, as well as the famous Howard Weeden, poetess and painter, and John Hix creator of "Strange as it Seems". Here also lived Edward Troye, nationally famous race horse painter and reputed designer of the Confederate flag and Uniform. Also in Madison County is the oldest continuing library in the State, and a chemical arsenal which was until recent years the largest warfare arsenal in the world. The County also has the dubious distinction of having been the residence of James Birney who later became the first candidate for President of the United States on the Abolition (Liberty Party) ticket. The County has also furnished, during its illustrious history, more governors (9) and United States Senators (10) than any other county in the State. For this reason it is sometimes referred to as the "County of Governors".



Section of cedar pipe recently excavated in Huntsville, believed to be a part of the first public waterworks system in the south. Now on display in the Smithsonian Institute.

Too, Madison County has been the residence of many other famous political figures. These include John W. Walker, who presided over the First State Constitutional Convention, and for whom the County of Walker is named; Clement C. Clay and Henry Chambers, U. S. Senators, for whom Clay and Chambers Counties, respectively, are named; and James McClung and Wm. Lowe, State leaders of the old Whig and Greenback parties.

The County also has the outstanding distinction of having the largest percentage of homes in the State with electricity coverage available. This latter distinction has been made possible mainly by the municipally owned Huntsville Electric System, which replaced the Alabama Power Company (1911-1940). The system utilizes Tennessee Valley Authority facilities and has the lowest residential rate in the State—with rates identical for rural and urban users. It is believed, too, that Madison County had the first home in the U. S. illuminated by gas. (Dr. Francis Newman's home where the Double Cola Bottling Co. now is.)

The early settlers of Madison County manifested an early interest in intellectual and religious affairs. Green Academy, the second college of its kind in the State, was founded in Huntsville in 1812 on the site of the present East Clinton Grammar School. The school was given the freedom to raise money by lottery to support its program. It became renowned throughout the nation for its teaching, and many of the outstanding Alabama statesmen of the 1800's received their training at this school. The Huntsville Military Academy, Scientific and Classic School, Huntsville Female Academy and College, Carlos Smith School, Huntsville Seminary, and a New Market Seminary also were among the older schools with leading cultural facilities. However, the use of the private school was largely supplanted by the introduction of the free public school system in 1854, and the use of academies and seminaries are non-existent today in Madison County. During the Civil War, Federal troops burned most of the schools in the County to the ground, and set the educational system back many years. However, the efforts of the early settlers were not lost completely. The desire for education had become firmly established, and today every community in the County has adequate school facilities, and college training is available in the County for both whites and Negroes. The public school system today is composed of 53 buildings, 14 of which offer High school, 31 Jr. High and 19 Elementary. St. Mary's Academy, a parochial school operated by the Catholic Church, provides elementary, Jr. High and Senior High. These are in addition to two Negro colleges, the University of Alabama Extension Center and two business colleges.



HUNTSVILLE FEMALE COLLEGE, RANDOLPH ST., HUNTSVILLE, WIDELY KNOWN COLLEGE OF EARLIER YEARS. (BURNED IN 1895).



HUNTSVILLE FEMALE SEMINARY, RANDOLPH ST., HUNTSVILLE, ANOTHER COLLEGE OF THE 1800's. (LATER BURNED).

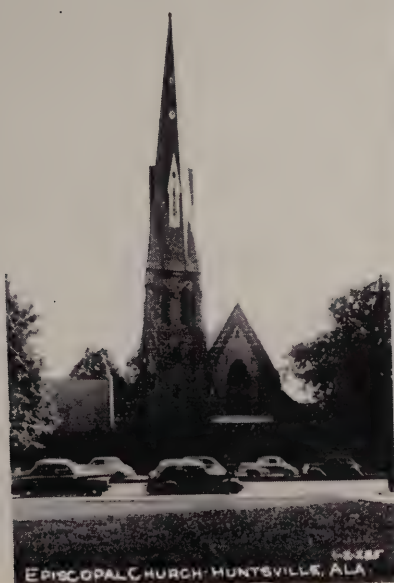


WEST HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL IN 1950. (ALSO HOUSES THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA EXTENSION CENTER).



AERIAL VIEW OF ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE AT NORMAL, IN 1950.

HISTORIC CHURCHES OF HUNTSVILLE



Deeply religious, the early residents of Madison County began to form churches of various denominations rapidly. What is now the First Baptist Church in Huntsville, established in 1808 near Gurley, Alabama, was the first organized congregation. It was also the first Baptist Church to be established in Alabama. Notable, too, was the organization of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Huntsville. It was the first of this church in Alabama also, and was organized personally by one of the national founders of the church. Also, note should be made of the Huntsville Episcopal Church, constructed prior to Civil War days in 1859, because it is one of the most outstanding examples of Gothic Architecture in America. The First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville is probably the oldest church building in the County, being constructed in 1858. It is in a remarkable state of preservation. The oldest Negro church in Alabama, organized in 1820 as the Huntsville African Baptist Church, is still in existence—known as the St. Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church—and meets on Oak Ave. There are many other outstanding features of other churches in the County, but suffice it to say that Madison County is one of the more religious sections of the State. References to the influence of the church are found from the very beginning of the County, and the leaders of the County have been notable for their attitude towards the church and its teachings. Today, congregations of almost every denomination may be found in the County, and most of them are in a very flourishing state.

Patriotism of Madison County residents is well known. They have participated in the American Revolution, have seen Indian outbreaks—running to cabin portholes when hearing a war whoop, have recorded the War with Britain in 1812, fought under General Andrew Jackson in the Creek War of 1813, suffered during the defeat of the Confederacy, have served during the trouble with Spain in 1898, clashed with Germany and its allies in the World Wars of 1916 and 1941, battled with the Mexican Army in the war for Texas Independence in 1835 (during which time a whole company of Madison Countians were massacred by Santa Anna and burned in a huge funeral pyre,) and today are serving our country in the Korean War. The County played a very prominent part in the stirring events of the Civil War, being the hub of Confederate military activity in North Alabama, until 1862 when Huntsville fell to Federal Troops. The Civil War and subsequent Reconstruction days, with the accompanying great loss of life, property and liberties, brought great suffering and hardship to its people. In fact, Madison County probably sustained greater destruction and loss of property than any other County in the state, due to frequent raids by foraging federal troops. The evils of “carpet-bagging” and “scalawagging” ran rampant after the war, and has left an indelible mark in the County's history as has the activities of the “Freedmans Bureau” in 1865. In 1865, for example, shoes sold for \$100 per pair, flour \$800.00 per barrel, and coffee brought \$50 per pound. For comparison, in 1828 shoes brought \$2.50 per pair and coffee was only 25c per pound. However, the indomitable will and hard work of Madison's people soon began to assert itself, and Madison County again assumed its role of leadership in State affairs. Helping in this was the Ku Klux Klan, formed to combat the “carpet-baggers”. However, there has been no organization of the Klan in many years, its purpose having been served following the Civil War.

During the Spanish American War, volunteers in the County were plentiful, and the citizens of the County were successful in obtaining an “encampment” here, over 20,000 soldiers being quarantined in the County during the war. Again during World Wars I and II, a great percentage of eligibles served their country enviably, nearly one-seventh of the entire population of the County serving in uniform in World War II. Redstone and Huntsville Arsenals, constructed by the Federal Government in 1941 at a cost in excess of eighty-five million dollars, and employing several thousand persons—mostly Madison Countians—had an outstanding production record during World War II. The immensity of these arsenals can be imagined when one realizes that they contain around 1,200 buildings on about 40,000 acres. Their contribution to the war effort, mainly in the form of ordnance and chemical products, played a prominent part in the winning of the war by America and its Allies. At the time of writing, the 1169th National Guard Combat Engineers Group, composed mostly of Madison Countians, has been mustered for duty in the action against the dastardly North Korean aggression war in Korea, and many young men in the County have volunteered.



Steam Plant No. 425, located in the Ordnance Guided Missile Center Area at Redstone Arsenal, is of the type usually found in large industrial or utility installations. It has a capacity to generate 400,000 pounds of steam per hour at a pressure of 400 pounds per square inch at a temperature of 600 degrees Fahrenheit. Pulverized coal ground to the fineness of flour is used for fuel.

Of further interest concerning Madison County patriotism is the method used by the early Commissioners Court in signing minutes. For instance, in the minutes of 1830, is found the following: "In the Year of our Lord 1830, and of American Independence the 55th Year". Too, the citizens of the County have the distinction of having purchased more War Bonds during World War II than any County its size in the State. Also, Madison County was the only county in the U. S. which had two Congressional Medal of Honor winners—1st Lt. Cecil Bolton and Sgt. Paul Bolden.

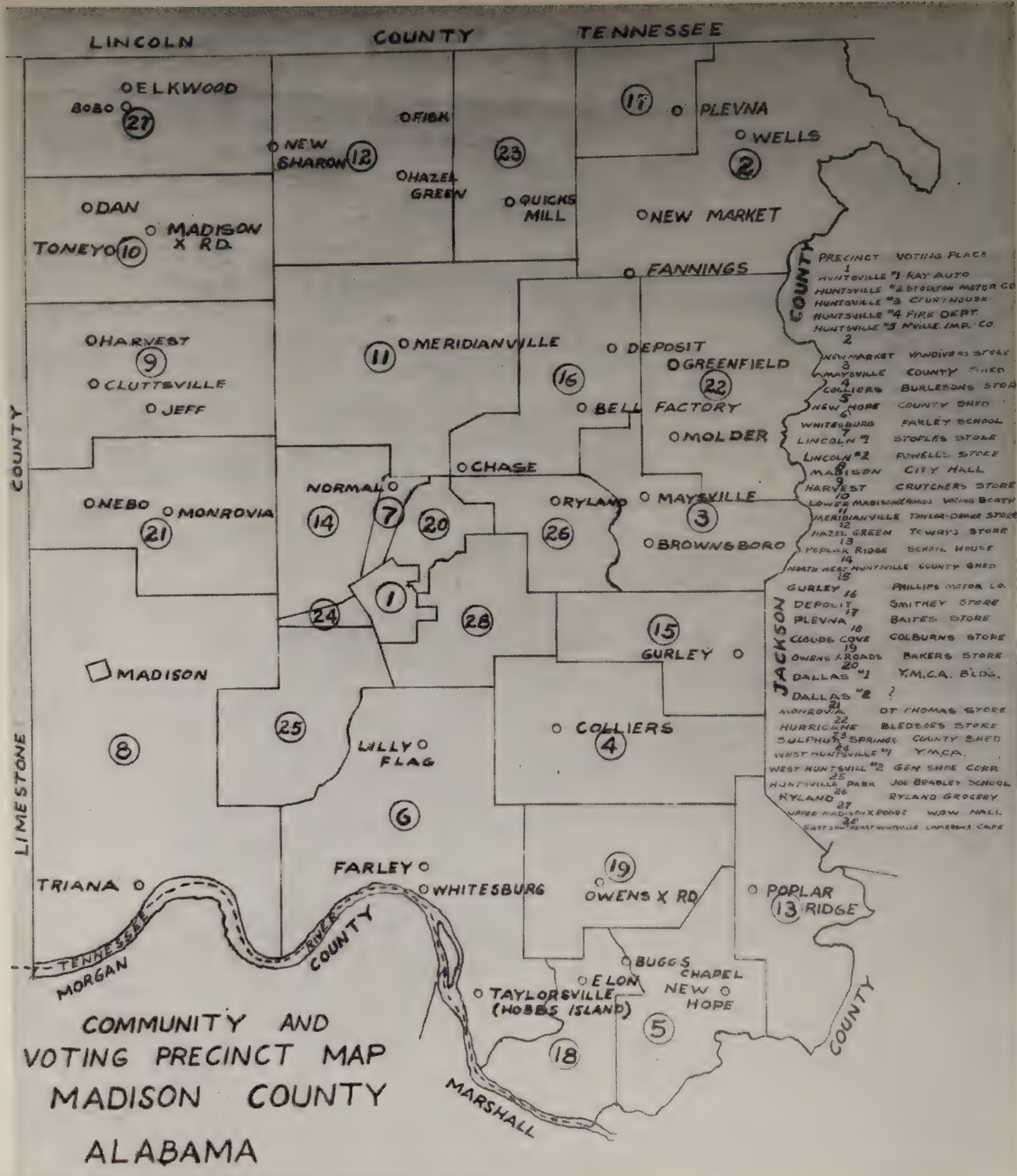
Politically, Madison's citizens have voted consistently and predominantly with the Democratic party, and thus is not unlike the rest of Alabama in this respect. However, in 1872 it voted radical, and again in 1928 it voted Republican.

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The method used by most campaigners for public office has become traditional by common usage. Each community in the County during "election season" sponsors a political rally at which barbecue plates are sold and candidates pass out cards, then gather together on a stage and address the residents of the community. In this manner practically all voters have the opportunity to see and hear all candidates.

As has been noted, in the early days of the County and prior to the Civil War in particular, Madison County played an extremely important part in the affairs of our State, and Madison Countians were very influential in State politics.

Concerning precincts, much favorable comment has been heard during the recent year, during which time the Board of Commissioners undertook and completed the tedious and commendable task of re-stating and re-establishing the precinct boundary lines, which had been virtually lost in antiquity. These boundary lines have played an important part in the history of the County. While Alabama was still a Territory, people first voted for members of the territorial legislature at the County seat, and the Justices of the Peace and Constables were elected at Company Muster Grounds in various other sections of the County. The Captain of the Company, along with two free holders appointed by him, held the election. Each Captain had jurisdiction over a Beat, which later became the basis for formation of election precincts. These Companies referred to were actually citizen militia, formed and kept together because of early unsettled conditions. Thus can be seen the military origin of our present voting precincts, (see map) which are listed here for their historical value:



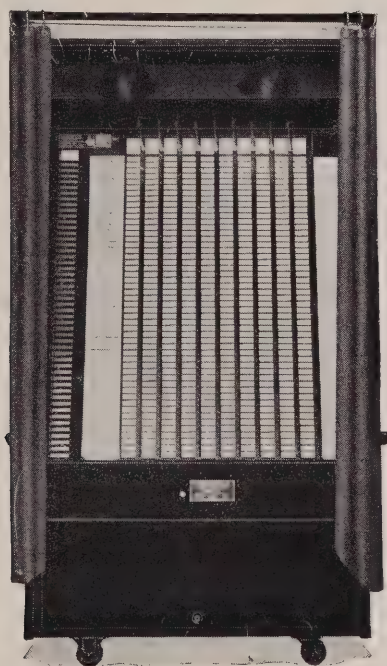
Precinct	POPULATION		Precinct	POPULATION	
	1900	1940		1900	1940
1 Huntsville (Corp. Limits)	14,642	18,801	15 Gurley	1,628	1,423
2 New Market	1,497	1,569	16 Deposit	1,045	1,445
3 Maysville	1,963	2,235	17 Plevna	595	854
4 Colliers	1,353	1,175	18 Elon	258	207
5 New Hope	1,426	2,078	19 Owens Cross Roads	1,073	1,377
6 Whitesburg	2,247	2,718	20 Dallas	1,763	3,204
7 Lincoln	1,736	2,380	21 Monrovia	1,071	2,220
8 Madison	1,862	3,470	22 Hurricane	952	910
9 Harvest (Cluttsville)	1,872	2,311	23 Sulphur Springs		1,705
10 Lower Madison Cross Roads ...	1,039	3,294	24 West Huntsville		3,830
11 Meridianville	2,747	3,150	25 Huntsville Park (Merrimack)		2,324
12 Hazel Green	1,550	2,392	26 Ryland		
13 Poplar Ridge	1,064	1,160	27 Upper Madison Cross Roads		
14 Northwest Huntsville			28 East-Southeast Huntsville		

NOTES:—Precinct 10 was formerly Madison Cross Roads, but in 1950 was subdivided into upper Madison Cross Roads No. 27 and lower Madison Cross Roads No. 10.

—Precinct 14 was formerly named Wells with a population of 319 in 1900, and declining to 85 in 1940. For economy reasons this Precinct was consolidated with New Market Precinct No. 2 in 1950.

—Precincts 14, 26 and 28 were created in 1950.

Concerning elections, one of the brightest spots in the recent history of Madison County has been its progress toward clean, honest elections. Toward this end, very effective work was done by the Grand Jury of 1948, as well as the American Legion, the Home Demonstration Clubs, and the Woman Citizen's Club. As a result of the action taken by the foregoing, election laws were revised over the entire State of Alabama; furthermore, a concrete improvement of the election system—the introduction and purchase of voting machines—was effected mainly through the efforts of the local Salesman's Club. The machines, sixty-five in number, have been a great deterrent to fraud and corruption.



VOTING MACHINE USED IN ALL ELECTIONS. MADISON COUNTY IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTIES OWNING THESE MACHINES. (PICTURE COURTESY SHOUP CORP.)

The history of agriculture in Madison County is largely the history of cotton. For many years the County was almost wholly dependent upon it, and it has not been until the last three decades that widespread diversification of crops has been practiced. Giving great impetus to diversification has been the World Wars. After each war there have been large increases in the price of foodstuffs, and farmers began turning to the raising of grains, garden products, and livestock raising. Much emphasis has been placed, too, on soil conservation practices. Although Madison County still is—and will remain—a large cotton producing County, the many fluctuations of the cotton market over the last hundred years has left no other real alternatives than to diversify. Another reason was the appearance of the Mexican Boll Weevil—which has still not been conquered—in 1910.

SHELTA CAVERNS, located two miles north-west of Huntsville opposite the Country Club. A Mr. Fuller (shown in the picture with members of his family) from Ohio, purchased the property in the nineties and proceeded to develop it for the public. The caverns were lighted by electricity, trails were opened up, boats were put on the underground lake and a large dancing pavilion was erected where my band furnished music for dancing. The building is over the entrance.



Bell Factory



Old "Bell Factory", 10 miles NE of Huntsville. It was the first spinning and weaving cotton factory in Alabama. Its name was derived from a bell ringing which called the hands to work. Only the stone foundation now remains. (Picture courtesy Public Library)

Shelta Caverns, 2 miles NW of Huntsville. A gay place in the late 1800's. Visitors enjoyed dances, dinners, boat excursions on the underground lake, and gazed in awe at the many natural wonders. It is not open to the public at present. (Picture courtesy D. C. Monroe—Monroe Printing Co.)



VIEW OF WHOLESALE NURSERY STOCK IN MADISON COUNTY—"THE WHOLESALE NURSERY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.")

Much has been said and written concerning the "sharecrop" system in use in this County, and an explanation is offered herein. The end of the Civil War found huge investments in slaves, livestock, machinery, and farms swept away. The tax burden was heavy under carpetbag rule, and the land itself, practically the only tangible asset left, had depreciated to a fraction of its former value. Those fortunate enough to have even land left found it almost impossible to borrow money on their depreciated property, and were often forced to sell part of their holdings to raise money for operating expenses. Thus, it was in this hectic post-war period that the sharecrop system of tenancy was developed. Though small farmers, who had lost their lands, and many freed negroes were available for work, there were few business enterprises capable of absorbing such a mass of unskilled labor, and, at the same time, most planters, badly in need of labor to farm their property, had no money for wages. The needs of both sides were met when negroes and dispossessed whites agreed to work the land for a share of the crops produced. This system is still used today, although in a considerably smaller proportion. Introduction of more farm machinery, increased scientific farming, and improved economic conditions have all combined to continue the reduction of "tenancy" problems.

The early settlers of the County found transportation extremely difficult, and much of the history of the County revolves around these difficulties. Although flatboats from the headwaters of the Tennessee River brought some settlers, the main group came by way of the old Winchester trail in northeast Madison County. This, and the other early trails, were no more than cuts through the forests and in winter became rivers of bottomless mud. The need for good roads grew insistent and gradually private companies secured charters for the construction of toll gate turnpikes. The law allowed no toll charges for funeral processions, church-going folks, persons going to vote or to the mill, blacksmiths, doctors, and men on their way to military musters. County Courts were empowered to supervise the repairing of the roads and no tolls were collected when they were in bad repair. This system continued in force, with few changes, until 1901. Today the State and County have complete supervision over construction and maintenance of public roads, and significantly there have been no toll gates on County roads since 1922.



ONE OF THE FIRST STREETCARS USED IN MADISON COUNTY. (PICTURE COURTESY OF JOHN McCLURE)

Madison County has played an important part in the transportation system of the State, pioneering in the construction of canals, and serving as a stagecoach terminus in 1820 and later years. Ferries on the Tennessee River are still recalled by many County residents. These ferries at one time were cable ferries, powered by horse and windlass, being gradually replaced by motor driven ferries, and later replaced by modern bridges. The use of canals within Madison County, used to transport goods down the Indian and Flint Rivers, was supplanted by the coming of the railroad (Memphis and Charleston— forerunner of the Southern) to the County in 1851, and today practically no trace remains of the enterprising canal ventures. Too, replacement of the old macadam and gravel roads has been gradually accomplished with the laying of asphalt and cement roads, until today Madison County has a system of roads considered superior in the State of Alabama. Present day use of the Tennessee River, made possible mainly by improvements of the T. V. A. since 1933, has made this river a major transportation artery, with a profound effect on the County economy.



PASSENGER PLANE LANDING AT THE CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT, 1950.

The airplane in 1941 began to play an important part in the transportation picture with the construction of a city-county airport. At present the airport is served by Eastern and Capital Airlines on their regular routes and the number of passengers are rapidly increasing. Construction of a new airport building will begin in 1951. Operations of the airport also include crop dusting, private chartering and flight instruction. It is handled at present by the Huntsville Air Service under lease from the City of Huntsville and Madison County.

In the early days of our history, not enough significance was placed upon preservation of historical records and data, and for this reason, most of this historical sketch has dealt with the County's earlier history. Too, much attention to historical detail has been shown by our writers and newspapers since 1900, and no attempt has been made to present a lengthy detailed report of chronological detail since that time, especially since many highpoints have been covered not only in this section, but in other sections of the report. However, several other outstanding historical features are presented herewith.

Affecting the social and economic conditions of the County during the last sixty-five years was the introduction of electric lights in 1887, replacing the old gas lights. The advent of radio in 1915, the telephone in 1883, the motion picture in 1908, Auto in 1903, local option on the prohibition question in 1937, and television in 1950, has affected an almost complete change in the recreational habits of the residents. Whereas, in the olden days recreation was of necessity confined usually to each community, it is today county-wide due to improved communications, roads, health conditions, and the introduction of the many comforts and conveniences. Today, no section of the County is over a few minutes ride away from any other section. However, the forms of recreation found in the County have not changed materially over the years. Although the "Cotillions", "Masquerades", "Reels" and opera are not seen much today, the residents still enjoy their square dances, round dances, religious spiritual singing, revivals, county fair, fiddlers contests, political rallies, box suppers, heavy drama, Art shows, and Saturday night "shindigs". Still a common sight today—as in the early days—is the Saturday crowds at the County seat and the farmers sitting around in the shade of the Courthouse lawn talking politics and crops. An innovation in recent years—sponsored by the retail merchants association and the Chamber of Commerce—are "Trade Days" on Thursdays, which attract large crowds to Huntsville.



"NATURAL WONDERS" ON MONTE SANO MOUNTAIN. (PICTURE COURTESY D. C. MONROE—MONROE PRINTING CO.)

OLD RAILWAY LEADING TO MONTE SANO HOTEL. PRACTICALLY NO TRACE REMAINS OF IT. (PICTURE COURTESY D. C. MONROE—MONROE PRINTING CO.)



BARBEQUE AT "HOMECOMING" CELEBRATION IN 1948—HELD ON MONTE SANO MOUNTAIN IN HONOR OF PAST RESIDENTS. OVER 10,000 PERSONS ATTENDED THE FESTIVITIES.

The coming of the T.V.A. in 1933, the C.C.C. in 1935, the W.P.A. in 1936, and the transition of weekly to daily newspapers, has substantially affected the lives of every citizen of the County. The purchase of Monte Sano Park by the Madison County Board of Commissioners and its development, spurred on by the colorful pageant in 1938 depicting the history of the County and Monte Sano, has proven to be one of the wisest acts ever undertaken by our County government.



SCENIC VIEW FROM MONTE SANO MOUNTAIN, NEAR COUNTY ROADSIDE PARK ON U. S. HIGHWAY NO. 241.

Reference to the population growth table below indicates that Madison County has never been a “boom county”, as its growth has been gradual and steady, with the exception of the first twenty-two years of its history, during which time the County showed remarkable growth. It is notable that wherever the citizens of the County have built—either privately or publicly—they have built for permanence. With a solid foundation of stable, conservation, and 99% native-born American citizens, continued progress is assured.

Evidencing the growth of the County are the following census figures:

Year	Population	Per Cent Increase	Year	Population	Per Cent Increase
1809	2,545		1880	37,625	20.33
1810	4,699	84.64	1890	38,119	1.31
1820	17,481	272.01	1900	43,702	14.64
1830	27,990	60.12	1910	47,041	7.64
1840	25,706	— 8.84	1920	51,268	8.92
1850	26,427	2.81	1930	64,637	26.68
1860	26,451	.09	1940	66,333	3.08
1870	31,267	18.21	1950	73,032	10.09

Note: The increase for the last half century was nearly 70%, but if the current trend continues, it is quite probable that the County will have a population of 150,000 by the end of the present century, with the County seat of Huntsville having a population of over 40,000.

Along with the years, and to current buildings, the materials and equipment—many produced locally—that go into buildings, are for permanence and comfortable living, as well as buildings pleasing to the eye. Dwellings today and in recent years are single family homes, duplex houses, or apartment houses. As to the style of architecture, they are usually today in harmony with surrounding buildings. Modern homes and buildings blend in well with ante bellum homes and older brick



LOSS OF THE NOTED HUNTSVILLE HOTEL BY FIRE IN 1910. THE HOTEL STOOD WHERE THE PRESENT HENDERSON NATIONAL BANK NOW IS. (PICTURE COURTESY JOHN McCLURE)

business buildings. Industrial buildings are built according to basic requirements principally stressing well lighted floor space. Retail stores are generally well designed and predominantly brick, although many are using stone fronts. Usage of brick in most of the store buildings has proven its value. Around the Courthouse square there has never been but one major fire. In fact, there have never been but three major fires in Huntsville.

Farm buildings, both homes and barns, still show the influence of early settlers in design, but in recent years, requirements of dairying and sanitation are materially altering the architectural design of dairy barns.

A County with as outstanding a past as Madison naturally has many legends developed about it. One legend which should be corrected deals with the story that the famous outlaw Jesse James once robbed the First National Bank. There is no basis for this whatever, inasmuch as Jesse James never came into this County. However, his notorious brother, Frank James, was arrested for conspiracy to rob a paymaster at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and was brought to Huntsville in 1884 for trial in Federal Court. The trial was conducted in a building which stood at the corner of Green and Eustis Streets, and James was acquitted. However, immediately following his acquittal, he was re-arrested by a Federal agent and transported to Missouri for further trial on another charge.

Madison County is historically connected with six flags; In addition to "Old Glory", its area has been under the flag of Spain, France, Britian, The Republic of Alabama, and the Confederate States of America.

The history of Madison County is a glorious one, and it needs to be preserved for the benefit of future generations. With all its historical places, there is a need for some enterprising organization or individual to institute a historical marker program; and some of the descendants of our famed Madison Countians—still owning the ancestral homes—should be persuaded to donate one for use as a Madison County Museum. Only in this manner can we hope to preserve untarnished the illustrious history that is Madison County's.



UNIQUE "VANISHING FALLS"—ON MONTE SANO MOUNTAIN



SECTION III

How Your County Government Operates

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT dates back to a very early period in the history of England—in fact to a period when there was no king at all over the whole of England. When the settlers came to America and established the colonies, they simply transplanted to these colonies the County form of local government to which they had been accustomed. When the Mississippi Territory was created in 1798, County government essentially like the English form was extended to the soil of what is now Alabama. However, it was not until 1809 that the laws of the Mississippi Territory were effectively extended to Madison County and the first semblance of government seen. Prior to this time the only law enforcement known to the residents of the County was that produced by individuals banded together in vigilante form to punish evil-doers by public whippings and brandings.

The first governing body of Madison County was known as “The Justices of the Peace and of the Quorum”, first organized in 1808. This body of five members, one of whom served as the Chief Justice, dispensed the first real democratic justice known to the County. In 1821, the control of County functions succeeded to “The Commissioners of Roads and Revenues”, again a body of five men. One of the five, however, was given the title “Judge of the County Court”, later called the Probate Judge. In 1919 the representative body was reduced in size—a President and two associate members—and was named the Board of Revenue. Finally, in 1923, the present form of government came into existence, the Board of County Commissioners (or Commissioners Court), composed again of five men.

To supplement the work of the chief governing body, other County offices gradually emerged. By 1830 the following County offices had been established: regular Justices of the Peace, a Circuit Court, Notaries Public, Circuit Solicitor, Sheriff, Coroner, Constable, Treasurer, Auctioneer, Road Apportioners, Road Overseers, Overseers of the Poor, and County Surveyor. The last six offices were later abolished.

From this starting point, the growth and development of County offices and functions adequately reflects the corresponding growth and development of the County as a whole. For instance, in 1838, the year that the Chancery (Equity) Court was organized, the offices of Tax Assessor and Tax Collector were also created. Prior to that time, the assessment and collection of taxes had been the duty of the Sheriff and special agents appointed by the Commissioners—an old tradition handed down from English practice. This shift shows a growth in population and in the complexity of civilization as well as in the number and kind of functions required of County government.

During the next one hundred and twelve years, the government of Madison County continued to improve and expand. The following is a list of the establishment of new offices and functions in Madison County during that period:

1850	Probate Court	1911	Inferior Court
1856	County Supt. of Education	1919	License Inspector
1879	County Board of Education	1923	Board of Equalization
1881	County Health Officer	1935	Dept. of Public Welfare
1901	Board of Registrars	1939	Barber Board
1909	Jury Commission	1945	Veterans Affairs Officer
1911	County Farm Agent		

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Most of the 3,069 County governments in the United States are managed by locally-elected, independent officials, and Madison County is no exception. The closest thing to a coordinating mechanism, however, is found in the Board of County Commissioners. This type of government constitutes over 60% of the nation’s County governments. The members of the Board are elected for a four year term, being paid on a salary basis, and comprise the County’s legislative body. It might well

be termed a County legislature. As is evidenced by the list of duties below, their authority is not as great nor as free as that of a State Legislature, but they are elected, however, somewhat in the same manner as are state legislators. Each member of the Board is elected from a district and is responsible not only to his home district but to the County as a whole. Thus by welding the interests of various parts of the County into a single group of men, an agency has been created that is concerned with the total welfare of the County and with the relations of the County to the State and other local governments.

While the duties of the Board are limited in many respects, an enumeration of their duties makes a sizeable list. Most of the legal duties of the Board are as follows: (1) to levy certain taxes; (2) to construct and maintain roads and bridges; (3) to provide for the support of the poor; (4) to provide and maintain public buildings; (5) to examine, settle, and allow accounts and claims chargeable against the county; (6) to assign the use of public buildings and the rooms therein; (7) to perform various duties in connection with administering elections; (8) to make various appointments to committees and boards; and (9) to budget the County finances, making appropriations to the various County agencies.

The two most important functions of the Board are acting as the legislative body of the County and administering the system of roads and highways. Usually, the Commissioners meet as a Court at least four times each month, although legally they are required to meet only twice in that period. The remainder of the Commissioners time is usually spent in his district supervising actual work. The meetings of the Court are held on the first and third Mondays and every other Friday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and are open to the public and the press. All official acts of the Court are made in the form of motions and are entered, consequently, on the minutes of the meeting, and preserved for posterity. Characteristically, various sessions of the Court are devoted to a multitude of things such as the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, buildings, drainage problems, salaries of employees, project working hours, conduct of elections, audit and approval of payrolls and bills, and programs concerning the general welfare of the County. These sessions serve as the public forum of Madison County, for it is here that countless committees of citizens appear to make their voices heard in the management of County affairs.

The method of selecting the members of the Board is highly democratic. The County is divided into five Districts (see map), and one Commissioner is elected from each District. In Districts One, Two, Three, and Four, not only must the Commissioner be a resident of that district, but he is elected solely by the qualified voters of that District. The Commissioner from District Five must also be a resident of that District, but he is elected by the voters of the County at large. This Commissioner is always elected as the Chairman of the Board on the election ballot.

During the first century of the County's history, existing law required the Board to divide the County into road districts and to appoint a road overseer for each district who had immediate supervision of road activities. Also they had to appoint an apportioner for each election precinct who had to list for road duty all male persons (not exempted) between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and to "distribute" these "road hands" to the overseer as needed. Those listed for road duty could either work, or pay into the County Treasury a tax in lieu of working. However, with the increasing comforts and conveniences of civilization and the desire of the citizens to pay taxes rather than work on roads, this system was abandoned in 1921, and Commissioners began acting as their own overseer. Today more of their time is spent in overseeing construction and maintenance of County roads and highways than in any other one thing. Using Districts as a basis, the responsibility for administering the road system of the County is divided among the members of the Board and each Commissioner is charged with supervising the activities in the District from which he was elected and in which he resides. However, each Commissioner is accountable to the entire board for his activities. The chairman is charged with conducting meetings of the Court, maintenance of financial records, and certain general supervisory and inspection duties over the County at large, as well as supervision of a District of his own.

TENNESSEE

LINCOLN

COUNTY

1

4

2

5

3



TENNESSEE

MORGAN

RIVER
COUNTY

JACKSON

ROCK

RIVER
COUNTY

PAINT

MARSHALL

DISTRICT MAP OF MADISON COUNTY ALABAMA

MAP SHOWING BOUNDARIES OF COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

By decision of the Board, each Commissioner is allotted a specific amount of money each year to be devoted to the construction and maintenance of the highway system in his district. Approximately twenty-five employees per district are necessary for this task, as now constituted, and each Commissioner has assigned the necessary road machinery and equipment, averaging one dragline, one bulldozer, three graders, ten trucks, and other miscellaneous equipment. Maximum utilization and efficiency is attempted, however, by the establishment of a central pool of special, heavy road machinery—dirt movers, concrete mixers, loaders, lowboys, and a welding machine. These items are made available throughout the County. In addition, Commissioners frequently interchange their machinery, when circumstances warrant.

The picture of highway administration in Madison County today represents quite a contrast with the practices of the early days. During its early history, many large planters built private roads; stock companies constructed toll-gate turnpikes, and for many years the County used convict labor. Too, roads were maintained by requiring every able-bodied male to do duty in road building for five days per year, or pay into the County treasury fifty cents per day. Most men of the earlier days worked out this tax. But with the growth of population, and the consequent necessity for construction of roads for the common benefit of all, public road construction and maintenance became almost the entire responsibility of the Board of Commissioners. Today, not only does the County have a vast network of improved roads and highways, built by modern machinery, tools, and methods; but also the County employs a college trained, State approved, County Engineer to provide expert advice and planning.

It is widely known that Madison County's road system is surpassed by none in Alabama. This has been made possible because of the intense interest and desire by the citizens of the County to provide better roads. To this end, they have been willing to support a three cent gas tax in order to provide additional revenue for this purpose, and they have elected Commissioners who, on the whole, have done a creditable job of constructing and maintaining the roads. Too, not enough credit can be given to the employees who have worked hard and long at this tremendous task. While income for road purposes probably never will completely meet the demand, it **has** been sufficient to provide Madison County with a superior system of local roads.



ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORK UNDER PROGRESS (BLUE SPRING ROAD)



VARIOUS COUNTY MACHINERY AT WORK ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE ONLY COUNTY-BUILT BOAT HARBOR IN THE STATE



BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



"DRAGLINE" LOADING DIRT ON DUMP TRUCK

Relationships between the Board and other agencies of the County government are the principal means by which coordination of the many and varied County activities is achieved. The relationships may be formal or informal. For instance, the taxing authority of the Board has given it a limited amount of formal control over the adjustment of tax assessments and the collection of taxes. Other relationships arise from the fact that, in the case of the Sheriff's office, the Board pays the salaries of some of the law enforcement officers—the Chief Deputy Sheriff, the Jail Watchman, and Janitor of the jail. They have authority also to pay the salary, partially, of extra deputies. While the feeding of the prisoners is handled by the Sheriff, it is the ultimate responsibility of the Board; and the Board provides certain books and office supplies as well as special police radios. This example clearly illustrates the kind of inter-agency relationships that exist in Madison County's government. Actually, every agency of the County government is connected in one way or another with the Board of Commissioners.

It would be misleading, however, to imply that the same type of relationships exist with all departments. The courts are virtually independent of the Board since they are a part of the State Judicial system. The Board of Commissioners, however, does furnish a limited number of supplies and telephones, designates the location of the courtrooms, furnishes certain office supplies, and pays certain salaries. The County educational system is also relatively independent of other County agencies and might well be classed as an independent unit of government. The tax assessing and collecting functions are performed for the Board of Education by the County Tax Assessor and Tax Collector, just as in the case of the municipalities, but this is purely a ministerial function. But even though there is certain legal separation between these units of government, there is a high degree of cooperation. The Board of Commissioners, for example, often uses its heavy equipment and maintenance personnel for work on school grounds and property. Some thousands of dollars have been spent in this manner.

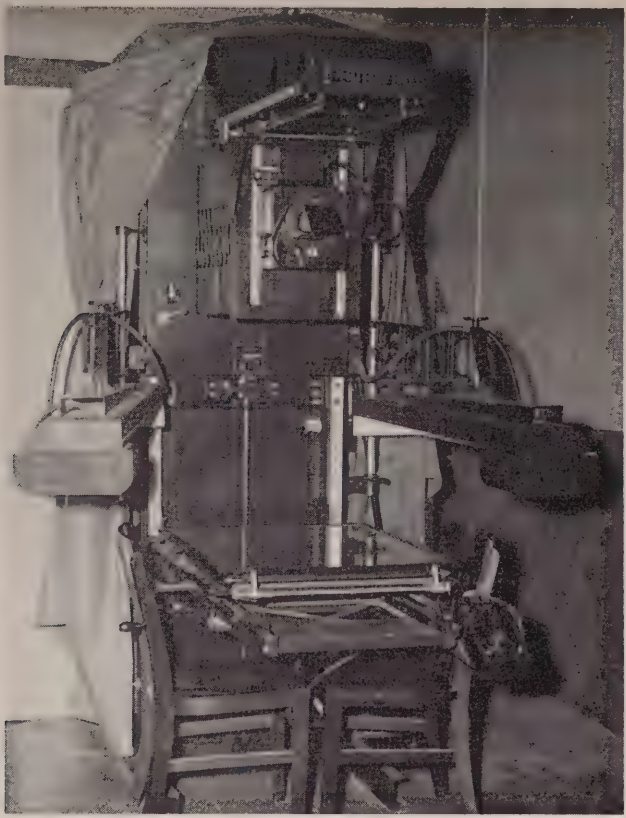
Thus while the independent election of County officials has tended to divorce the various operations of County government from each other, formal and informal cooperative relationships have developed in Madison County to produce better teamwork and efficiency.

FUNCTIONS AND OFFICES

It is important in understanding the operation of a governmental unit to be acquainted with the various offices that comprise that unit and to understand what functions are performed by them. There follows, therefore, a brief resume of the offices and functions in Madison County government not already elaborated on.

THE PROBATE JUDGE

The duties of the Probate Judge's office consist mainly of matters relating to estates, the granting of letters testamentary and of administration, the recording of deeds and other conveyances, the issuance of licenses and the collection of the fees therefrom. The Probate Judge is also charged with jurisdiction over Juvenile Court, the Court of Domestic Relations, and commitments of insane persons. He is elected for a six year term and receives his pay mainly under a fee-commission basis. All employees of the office are paid by the Judge.



Photostat machine used to copy various records. Madison County is one of the few counties owning such a machine.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Preservation of peace and the public's safety is one of the oldest and most vital functions of County government. From the beginning, the **Sheriff** has been the principal conservator of the peace within the County. His primary functions are to ferret out and suppress crimes of any nature, and to serve as an agent of the courts. The people look to the Sheriff as the protector of their property and lives, and as a person who will see that they are not denied their legal rights. The responsibility of the office is tremendous when one considers that they range from families looking to the Sheriff to treat their wayward relatives properly if in jail, not to be denied the opportunity for bail, to the Sheriff producing witnesses asked for in court, whether they come willingly or not—from the poorest person to the wealthiest person.

Thus one can see that the office of the Sheriff, who is elected for a four year term, and who receives his pay mainly under the fee system, is a vital cog in the machinery of the law enforcement branch of our County government. Employees of the Sheriff are paid on a split basis—some being paid by the Sheriff, while others are paid by the County.

The **Coroner** is charged with investigating all deaths under suspicious circumstances, and must also serve as acting sheriff when that office is vacant. He is elected for a four year term and receives pay based on the number of investigations made.

Legally there may be two **Justices of the Peace** and one **Constable** in every election precinct. They are elected for four year terms and receive pay under a fee system. The former issue warrants, try minor civil cases, and bind persons over to the grand jury when hearing and investigating warrant it. The Constable acts as an arresting agent.

The **Circuit Solicitor**, in addition to advising all County officials, prosecutes offenders, and assists grand jury investigations. He is elected for a four year term and receives a salary from the State. He also represents the State as civil attorney in Federal matters.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The Twenty-Third Circuit of the Alabama State Judicial system covers Madison County. This Circuit, plus an **Inferior Court**, make up Madison's part of the State Judicial system. The **Circuit Court** is the highest judicial court in the County, and all trials by jury, both civil and criminal, are heard before this court, which has jurisdiction in all felony cases, and concurrent jurisdiction in misdemeanor cases. The **Circuit Court Judge**, elected for a six year term and paid on a salary basis by the State and County, presides over the Court, while the **Solicitor** acts as its prosecuting attorney. In some cases the jury fixes the punishment, and in other cases adjudges the defendant guilty and the judge fixes the punishment. The court also has a non-jury docket when questions of both law and fact are determined by the Judge. Decisions of this court may be appealed to the **State Court of Appeals** or the **State Supreme Court**, dependent upon the case.

The Circuit Court has three branches, the **Criminal**, **Civil** and **Equity** Divisions. All cases in either division are tried before the Circuit Judge at calls of the Docket of each division, the docket of each division being called four times each year. The **Civil** division deals with all litigations over \$100, while the **Criminal** division deals with violations of the criminal laws of the State. The **Equity** division has general jurisdiction over divorces, administration matters, injunctions, and legal disputes concerning real estate. The Circuit Court Judge appoints the **Register of the Circuit Court** (commonly called the Register in Chancery) who keeps all records pertaining to equity matters, and collects certain fees for the State and County. The Register receives his pay under a fee-commission system and is appointed for an indefinite period.

Records of the Circuit Court's criminal and civil divisions are maintained by the **Circuit Court Clerk**, who is elected for a six year term and paid mainly on a fee-commission basis. The Circuit Court Clerk's duties consist mainly of keeping the minutes of the Court, issuance of summons and subpoenas, instituting payment for jurors and witnesses, and keeping records of court cases. The Clerk must also collect certain fines and fees, and remit to the appropriate agencies of the County and State.

Also assisting in Circuit Court matters is the **Court Reporter**, who is appointed by the Circuit Court Judge for an indefinite period, receiving pay under a salary basis from the State and County. The Reporter must report all cases on the civil, criminal and equity dockets, and in case of appeals, transcribes testimony and files it with the Circuit Court Clerk or Register.

The **Inferior Court** was established as a special court in lieu of all Justices of the Peace of the Huntsville Precinct. The **Inferior Court Judge**, who is elected by the Huntsville Precinct voters for a four year term, and who is paid on a salary basis by the County, presides over all cases, and has county-wide jurisdiction. He passes sentence upon persons found guilty of applicable misdemeanors, and in all criminal cases where there is probable cause, binds the cases over to the grand jury.

The **Solicitor** acts as prosecuting attorney for this court. Records of the court are kept by the **Inferior Court Clerk**, who is appointed by the Inferior Court Judge for an indefinite period, and who receives pay on a salary basis from the County. The Clerk must also collect certain fines and fees. Decisions of the Court may be appealed to the Circuit Court, just as they may be appealed from any Justice of the Peace Court in Madison County. In regard to **Justices of the Peace**, it appears that the County is gradually getting away from this system because although there may officially be fifty-six in the County, at present there are only three active.

Selection of those qualified for jury duty is entrusted to a **Jury Commission**. This commission is composed of three qualified voters of the County who are appointed by the Governor, and serve during his tenure of office and until their successors are appointed and qualified. They receive their pay on a salary basis from the County, dependent upon the number of days worked. The Commission employs a **Clerk**, who is paid by the County on the same basis as the Commission, and up-to-date rolls for the selection of jurors must be maintained by them. A "pool" of names is taken by the Court from among the qualified list and eighteen men are selected to serve on the Grand Jury, when it is called, and twelve men are selected to serve on the Petit Jury for each case to be tried.

The **Grand Jury** for centuries has served both as a brake on crime against society, and as a brake on oppression by rulers, governors, and government officials. Its duties consist mainly of investigating all violations of criminal law and the returning of indictments where the evidence warrants. Twelve of the eighteen jurors have to vote favorably for the returning of an indictment, and after its returning as a "true bill", a defendant is tried before the petit jury at the appropriate time. Also, the Grand Jury is required to inspect the County Jail and other general affairs of the County, and may make recommendations on any matter concerning the general welfare of the County. This jury is attended and advised by the Solicitor. Controlled only by its own sense of obligation and by its own conscience, the Grand Jury in modern times, as well as in early days, has proved its inestimable value.

The **Petit Jury** is a trial jury for the purpose of determining the guilt or innocence of a person after he has been indicted by a grand jury in a criminal case, and also tries civil cases. In a civil case, it determines the questions of fact involved. In all cases a unanimous vote of twelve jurors is necessary to convict, and in the event the twelve jurors cannot reach a unanimous decision, the case is declared a mis-trial by the Judge, and continued to the next term of court, and until a unanimous decision is reached by a jury.

If courts, in cases at law are really to accomplish justice, they must have the aid of honest and upright jurors who believe in their country, and who face their tasks with intelligence, sound judgment and courage, that will enable them to rightly decide intricate questions of fact, and to do so without fear or favor. The public properly expect the courts will find jurors so equipped. The record of Madison County juries bears out the fact that this County has consistently found its jurors so equipped.

Madison County is also fortunate to have Federal and U. S. Commissioners Courts held within its confines. It is here that offenders of Federal laws are tried. Altogether, the judicial system within Madison County leaves scarcely nothing to be desired.

FINANCIAL OFFICES

There are four principal operations involved in administering the financial affairs of the County: **property assessment and review; collection of taxes; recording and auditing of receipts and expenditures; and the receiving, holding and disbursing of monies.**

The **Tax Assessor**, who is elected for a six year term and who receives his pay mainly on a fee-commission basis, must obtain assessment of real and personal property at a percentage of its "fair and reasonable market value", the legal percentage being sixty percent. He must also maintain land and lot books which show the ownership of lots and tracts of land. After assessment records are completed and approved by the Board of Equalization the Assessor notifies the Tax Collector as to the

amount of tax due from each property holder. Return of property assessment must be made by the property owner between October 1 and December 31 of each year for the subsequent year's taxes. An exception to this schedule is found, however, in the case of motor vehicles, which must be assessed between October 1 and November 15 of each year, with some exceptions. Employees of the Assessors office are paid by the tax assessor.

The **Board of Equalization**, comprised of three owners of property in the County appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of local governing bodies and paid on a salary basis by the State and County dependent upon the number of days worked—inspects and reviews the tax assessment records. Where necessary, they revise the assessed valuations, through certain legal procedures, so as to promote uniform valuation throughout the County. Property owners may appear before this Board in the interests of their assessments.

The next stage of financial activity involves the **Tax Collector**, who is elected for a six year term and who receives his pay under the fee-commission system. His peak period of activity occurs between October 1 and December 31, after which date property taxes become delinquent and a penalty is charged. He collects taxes for the municipalities, Board of Education, the State, and the County, and apportions to each unit of government its share. This procedure has given lower tax-collecting costs for the citizens of Madison County. The Collector also has the task of collecting poll taxes between October 1 and February 1, and selling at auction property on which taxes have become delinquent. Employees of this office are paid by the Collector.

Other stages of financial activity involve the collecting of motor vehicle licenses, privilege licenses, deed and mortgage taxes, and other forms of tax and licenses by the **Probate Judge**. Too, a local gas tax on consumers is collected by the Board of Commissioners through the gas distributors, with a **Gasoline Tax Inspector** checking the necessary records. The Board of Commissioners also receives various monies and taxes directly from the State of Alabama, as well as fines and fees from the court system, and other miscellaneous sources.

Records of the County's financial transactions are supervised by the **County Auditor**, assisted by the **Clerk of the Commissioners Court**, and working under the Board of Commissioners through the Chairman. This function places the Auditor in the best position to advise and assist the Board in budgeting and fiscal administration. The second primary function of the auditor is that of checking on the regularity, accuracy, and legality of expenditures; that is, he conducts a preaudit, prior to the Chairman and Board, before any money is actually disbursed. However, this latter function should not be confused with the post-audit which is made by the **State Division of Examiners of Accounts** each year. This function of the State has proven an invaluable aid to the Counties. Too, the County employs a **County Attorney**, in whose hands are placed any involved legal interpretations and work. The Auditor, Clerk and Attorney are paid on a salary basis, and are employed for an indefinite period.

Monies being received by the Board of Commissioners are approved by the Chairman, and deposited in the local banks in appropriate funds. All payments of funds are by check, signed by the Chairman, and approved by the Board.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The **County Board of Health** is composed of the Executive Committee (Board of Censors) of the local Medical Association and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. It is their duty to administer and enforce all health laws within the County through the **County Health Officer** and his staff. The Health Officer is appointed by the County Board of Health for a three year term, upon recommendation of the State Health Officer. Health administration is particularly concerned with the keeping of health records and statistics, the control and prevention of communicable disease, the correction of unsanitary conditions, and the abatement of public health nuisances. All employees are paid on a salary basis directly by the Health Department.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The **County Board of Public Welfare** is composed of seven persons appointed by the Board of Commissioners, and also usually includes a member of the latter in the total. Too, the City Governing Body has equal authority in selecting the membership of the Welfare Board, and customarily one of the city governing body serves as a member of this Board. The **Welfare Director** is appointed by the Welfare Board, subject to qualifications prescribed by the State Board of Public Welfare, and her tenure is at the pleasure of the County Welfare Board. It is her duty, along with her staff, to administer the Welfare laws. The duties primarily consist of administering the principal relief activities of the County, such as relief to persons in need of assistance; performance of family welfare services, the care of dependent, neglected, delinquent, and otherwise handicapped children; and the investigation of applications for admission to and discharges from institutions providing care and treatment for indigents. All employees are paid on a salary basis directly by the Welfare Department.

EDUCATION

Control of the educational system of Madison County is vested in a five-member **Board of Education**. This board is elected from districts corresponding to the Commissioners districts, and serve for a six year term. Pay received by the board is so small as not to merit mentioning. They are elected by the qualified voters of the County at large and serve much in the same manner as the Board of Commissioners, inasmuch as they work together for the interests of the entire County, as well as the district which they represent. However, unlike the Board of Commissioners, they are elected on staggered terms, whereas the Board of Commissioners are all elected at the same election. The Board of Education appoints the **County Superintendent of Education** (the chief executive officer) who, along with the **Business Manager**—also appointed by the Board—administers the various rules and regulations of the State and County Boards. The Board of Education also appoints, upon recommendation of the various School Patrons, a three-member **Board of Trustees** (for each school owned by the County), whose duties consist mainly of inspection duties as to the pupils progress,



WEST HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL (AND UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA EXTENSION CENTER)

cleanliness of the schools, and other general welfare conditions. The Board of Trustees serve without pay, has the power to authorize use of the schoolhouse for community gatherings, and also has certain powers concerning assignment of teachers to their school. However, administration of each individual school is left to the **Principal**, who assisted by the various **teachers**, administers the various rules and regulations relating to school curriculum. The Superintendent of Education, Business Manager, Principals and teachers are all paid on a salary basis directly by the education department.

EXTENSION SERVICE

The **Extension Service** is devoted to providing information and assistance to rural Madison County, and is a result of the Smith-Lever act of 1914, when the Federal government offered to match funds to a certain amount to carry on an educational farming program. The County Agricultural agent, commonly known as the **County Agent**, gives assistance and advice to farmers pertaining to animal husbandry, poultry raising, horticulture, landscape gardening, entomology, forestry, soils, crops and marketing procedures. The service also provides for assistance in the 4-H Club program, a program for farm youths. The County Agent, along with his staff, are employees of the Alabama State Extension Service, and funds for financing this service come from the Federal government, the State and Madison County.

Similar functions to these are provided for farm women by the **Home Demonstration Agent**, also an employee of the State Extension Service. Her duties consist of giving practical instruction in such matters as home furnishings, equipment and care of the home, preservation of food, nutrition and diet, meal planning, child care and development, family budgeting, recreation, and home reading. She is also a guiding factor in the formation and activities of Home Demonstration Clubs, which are very active in community betterment projects.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Registration of voters, the striking of certain ineligible voters from the list of those qualified, and the transferring of voters from one precinct to another are the principal duties of the **Board of Registrars**. However, in connection with the transferring of voters, the voter is required to notify the Board. The members of this three-member board are not only appointed by the State's Governor, Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries; but compensation of the members is also drawn from the State's treasury. The members of the Board must be qualified voters of Madison County. General administration of the office subject to Board rules is in charge of a **Clerk**, whose salary is paid by the County. The present system is considerably different from that prior to 1901, during which time registration of voters was carried on in each County by a single County Registrar, assisted by a sub-registrar in each precinct.

FORESTRY DIVISION

Office space is provided by the County for the **State Forest Ranger** assigned to this district. He is an employee of the State Conservation Department and is charged with the protection and conservation of forest lands in the Madison County area. The County annually appropriates money for protection of forest land within its confines.

PROBATION OFFICER

Office space and a telephone are furnished by the County for the **Probation Officer**, who is an employee of the State. His duties consist mainly of making investigations on probation applications, and certain supervisory duties over parolees.

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER

Office space and a telephone is also furnished the **Veterans Affairs Officer** by the County. His duties consist of assistance to all veterans of Madison County in whatever type of assistance is needed. He is employed by the State Department of Veterans Affairs.

LICENSE INSPECTOR

Office supplies and office space is provided for a **License Inspector**, who is an employee of the State Department of Revenue. It is his duty to check that all licenses are paid, and to this end may institute legal proceedings against delinquents.

BARBER BOARD

The Barber Board consists of four persons, three of whom are appointed for three year terms by the Board of Commissioners, and one of whom is the County Health Officer, as an ex officio member. The duties of the Board consist mainly of enforcing legal regulations concerning licensing, prices, and cleanliness in the Barber Shops of the County.

ELECTION APPOINTING BOARD AND ELECTIONS

In order to vote in Madison County, one must fulfill the requirement of a two year residence in the State, one year in the County, and three months in a precinct. Also payment of poll tax of \$1.50 per year for persons 21 to 45 is a prerequisite (except veterans). Registration before a Board of Registrars which meets every First and Third Friday of each month must also be attended to. The voter is then entitled to vote in every County primary, general and special election.

Officials to supervise elections, consisting of two inspectors and two clerks, are appointed by the **Election Appointing Board**, which consists of the Probate Judge, Sheriff, and Circuit Court Clerk, acting jointly.

COUNTY DEPOSITORY

General legislation adopted by the State in 1915 abolished the office of County Treasurer, and substituted a **Bank** to be chosen by the County governing body to serve as a depository for County funds. The First National Bank, Henderson National Bank, and State National Bank have been designated by the Board of Commissioners as depositories for Madison County.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENTS

Under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners fall the operations of the pipeyard, buildings and grounds, and system of garages, as well as highway matters. The **Pipeyard** is designed to make concrete pipe used for drainage, and is under the immediate supervision of a **Foreman**. For the maintenance of all county machinery, one central **Garage** and four district garages are maintained, each under a separate foreman. A large central **Supply** stock is also maintained, under a **Stock Foreman**. Construction and maintenance of public buildings and grounds is under the immediate supervision of a **Maintenance Superintendent**.

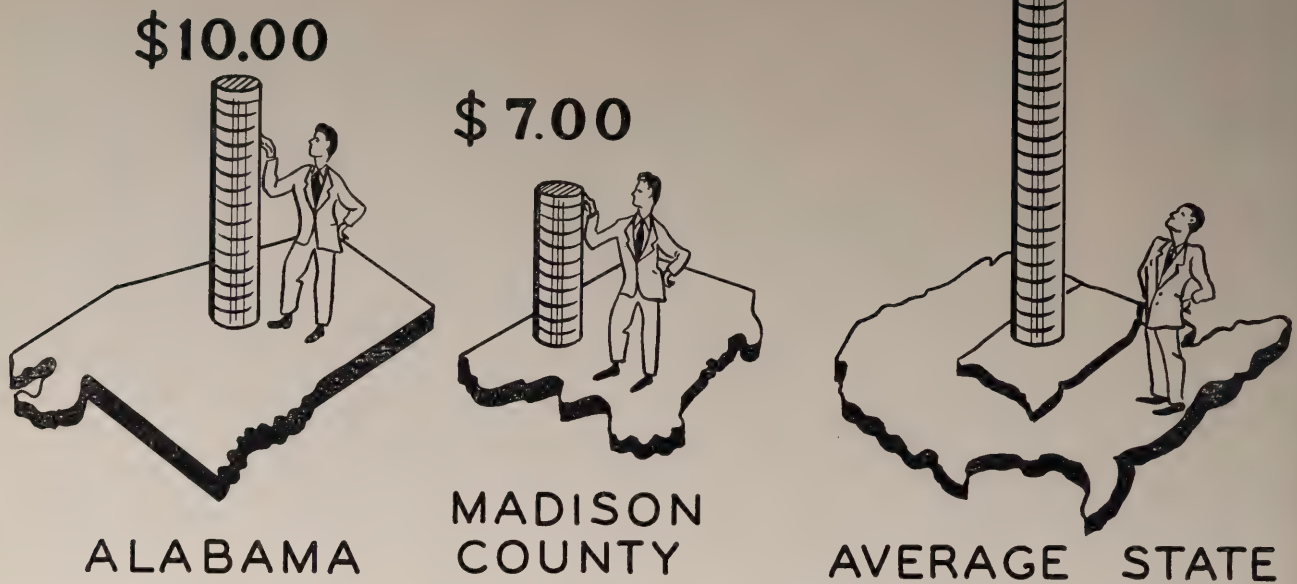
HOUSING AUTHORITY

Although the local Housing Authority is municipal in character and appointed by the Mayor of Huntsville, it has a close relationship with the County. It has jurisdiction 10 miles from the city limits, and operates Redstone Park and Binford Court housing projects. The authority is composed of five men who are appointed for three year terms, with one member's term expiring each year. Two new projects, Butler Terrace and Council Courts, are to be constructed in 1951.

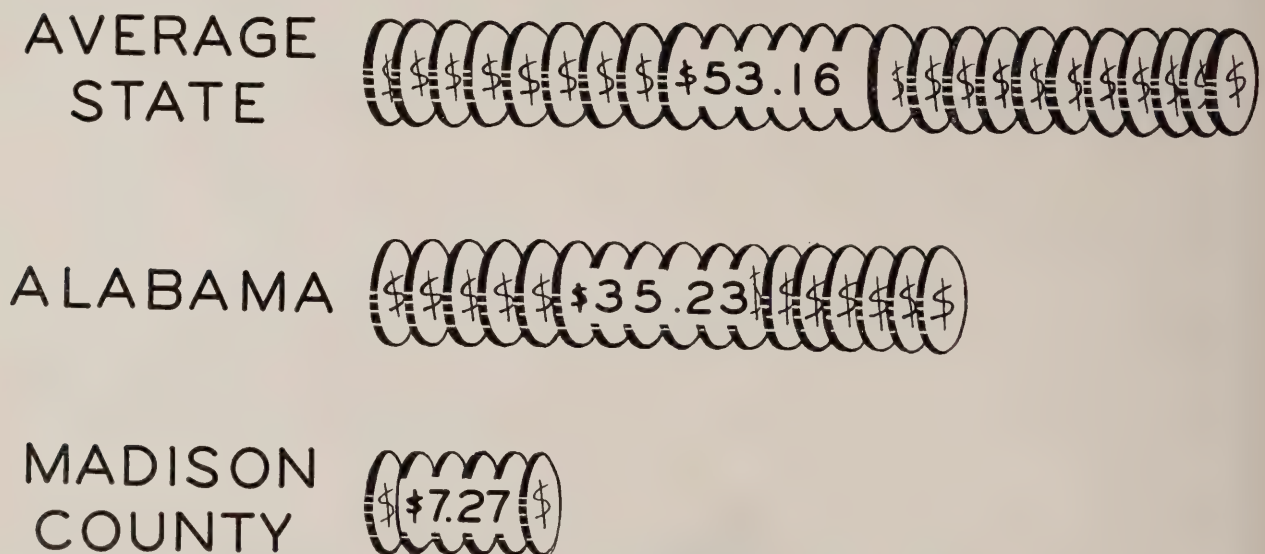
SUMMARY

This shows, then, the origin, growth, and type of governmental service that is provided on a county-wide basis to the citizens of Madison County. The question to follow, therefore, is how much service do the citizens of Madison County receive for their money? The subsequent section of the financial history of our County will tell that story.

PER CAPITA DEBT



PER CAPITA TAXES:



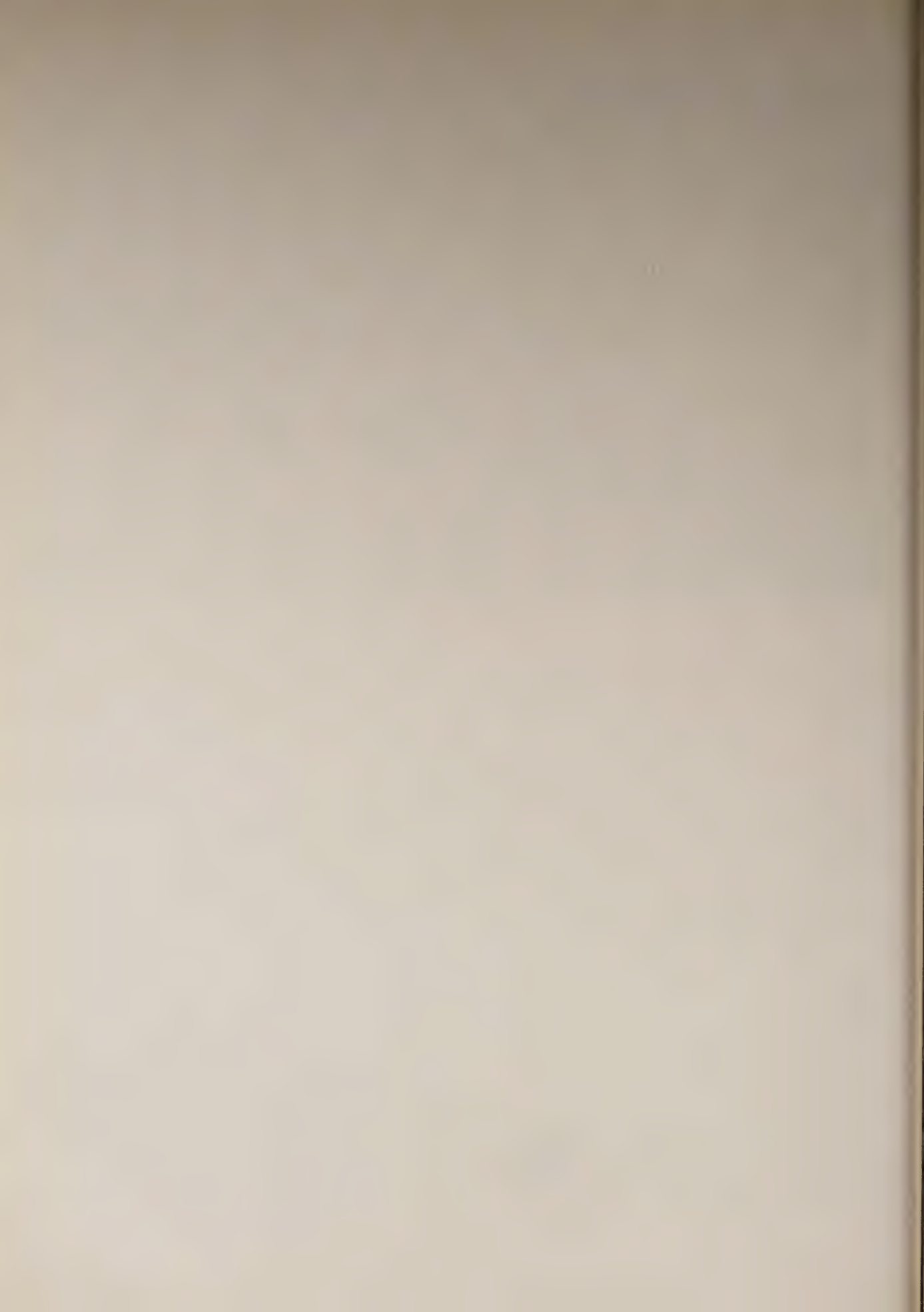
THIS IS TAX COLLECTIONS
PER PERSON



COUNTY PIPEYARD 1950



TYPE OF HOUSE BEING REPLACED IN MADISON COUNTY BY HOUSING PROJECTS.



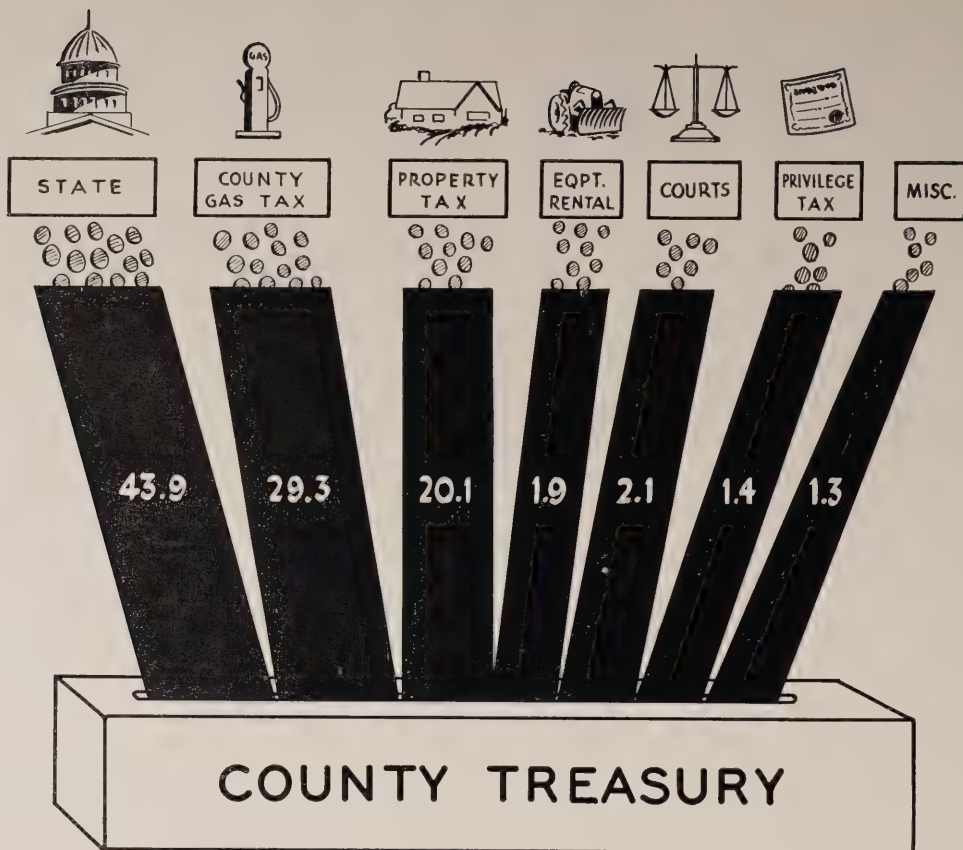


SECTION IV

Financial History of County Government

WHERE THE COUNTY'S MONEY COMES FROM

PERCENTAGES



ACCURATE METHODS of measuring the amount of service that County government provides for its citizens are practically non-existent, but a look at the financial condition of our County will give a rough idea of the relative importance of the various kinds of service that are provided. It is even more illuminating when viewed over a span of years, for here one sees a changing picture; a change in the values of the community of Madison County.

THE OLD AND THE NEW

A reading of 130 years of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners reveals a totally different civilization today from that of former decades. This is reflected in the changing financial pattern especially. Today the County of Madison is primarily in the business of building roads and maintaining them, but until 1916, this function was relatively a much smaller part of the County's activities. To some extent the same activities are being carried out by the County, but the proportions and relative values between these activities are not the same as in the early days. The expenditures in the first years of the County's history went mainly for such things as care of the poor and insane, burial of paupers, maintenance of the Courthouse and Jail, and construction of new roads and bridges. The County still performs these functions, although not in the same proportions, and many other types of expenditures have been added. To further illustrate, according to a Treasurer's report of 120 years ago, in 1829 expenditures amounted to \$4,934.91, while expenditures for the fiscal year 1948-1949 amounted to over one million dollars.

The sources of the County's income have also changed over the years of its existence. Money was derived in earlier years from such taxes as a wheel tax, tobacco tax, pistol tax, war tax, dog tax, taxes on slaves, watches, and various forms of "pleasure" termed personal property. None of these taxes are now levied, as such. To further illustrate, the tax levy for 1830 is reproduced here:

1840 TAX LEVY (Levied by Board of Commissioners)

Item Taxed	Amount of Tax
Each \$100 worth of Land	\$.10
Each \$100 of town property .....	.10
Every \$100 worth of merchandise sold from first day of May 1839, to the first day of May 1840 ..	.20
On each slave not exceeding ten year old .....	.16
On each slave over ten and under sixty .....	.56
On each free male negro or mulatto, over 21	1.00
On all free white males, over 21 and not exceeding forty-five .....	.25
Each \$100 worth of pleasure carriages and surrey's .....	.50
Each race saddle or carriage horse .....	.50
Each Public race track	10.00
Each stud horse or jackass, the amount of the season for which he (owned on the first day of May 1840) may stand	
Each Gold watch	1.00
Each Silver or other watch .....	.40
Each Metal Clock	1.00
Each Non-metal clock .....	.25
Every \$100 loaned at Interest .....	.25
Each Pack of playing cards, sold, given away, loaned or otherwise disposed of .....	.25
All Goods sold at auction (Not exempted by Law) 2%	
Each Share of bank stock of \$100	1.00
Each Billiard Table kept for play	150.00

And on such things as are not therein enumerated and were heretofore objects of state taxation the amount of the State and said County tax for the year 1835.

And it is further ordered that thirty per centum be added to the foregoing taxation for the purpose of defraying in part the building of a Bridge, across Flint River at the three forks thereof.

Research concerning the "dog Tax" resulted in the discovery that in 1912 there were 40,000 dogs in the county. Male dogs were taxed at \$1.00 each, and female dogs \$2.50 each. It is apparent that the purpose of this tax was primarily aimed at controlling the numbers of dogs, rather than being a revenue source.

The Wheel Tax, which was last levied in 1925, was levied as follows:

Each one-horse wagon, buggy or dray	\$1.50 per annum
Each two-horse wagon, buggy, hearse or hack	2.00 per annum
Each two-horse wagon	2.50 per annum
Each wagon or other vehicle drawn by more than two animals	5.00 per annum
Certain exemptions (not entered here) were allowed.	

The basic local government tax throughout the history of the United States, however, has been the ad valorem tax on real property—land. The rate of taxation on this source of revenue in Madison County varied considerably during the years prior to 1913, but in that year the basis of our present system of property taxation was established. Thus, according to Table I, if a person owns property in the unincorporated portions of the County assessed at \$1,000 valuation, he will have to pay a County tax of \$14.50, and including State tax, a total tax of \$21. However, if he lives on the property, he would receive a homestead exemption from the State, in the amount of \$6.50 (65c on each \$100) reduction from the \$21. This homestead exemption is allowed on homesteads assessed up to \$2,000, and up to 160 acres. Throughout the history of Madison County, the property tax has been the single most important source of revenue.

TABLE I
Prevailing Tax Rates on Property in Madison County 1949
(Per \$100 assessed valuation)

Type of Tax	Rate
County General Purpose Tax	\$ 0.50
County Road and Bridge Tax	0.25
County School Taxes	0.70
**TOTAL COUNTY TAX RATE	\$ 1.45
State General Purpose Tax	\$ 0.25
State School Tax	0.30
State Confederate Soldier Pension Tax	0.10
TOTAL STATE TAX RATE	\$.65
*TOTAL STATE AND COUNTY TAX RATE	\$ 2.10

**Only five other Counties in Alabama have a lower tax rate than this—and they are much smaller Counties.

*Does not include city taxes. Huntsville has a \$1.80 rate and the City of Madison has a rate of 50c. (on each \$100.00).

County governments in the United States, as a rule, have been and are in difficult financial straits. Roads had to be built, and this required large outlays of money. To get this money it was necessary to float large bond issues, and thus nearly all Counties are heavily in debt trying to pay for improvements of previous years. The property tax already outlined, which has provided over fifty percent of County revenues in this United States, was not adequate to meet the increased demands of a large population and a more modern society. Up until the 1920's Madison County was no different from the others as, for instance, in the year 1920, the bonded indebtedness of Madison County was \$257,500, and in 1922 was \$307,500. It also owed several thousands of dollars in the form of notes due on demand. Too, the revenue of the County was considerably smaller than now, and many of its purchases were C.O.D.

Two solutions were offered to meet these financial problems, with the alternative of letting roads ruin and stopping construction of new ones. First, the County could try and find new ways of getting money, and secondly, it could try and shift some of the financial burden to a larger unit of government—either the state or the national government. Madison County has done both, within cer-

tain limits, and as of September 30, 1949, its bonded indebtedness was only \$49,000, with more than enough money available to pay this off, and with the prospects of increased revenue. In fact, it may well be represented that Madison County has a **very superior financial rating**, the average debt of the 67 counties of Alabama being well over \$750,000. The distinguishing thing about this County, however, is that Madison's officials and citizens recognized and found solutions for its problems earlier than most Counties, mainly through the process of obtaining new sources of revenue. In 1923 the citizens of the County supported a three-cent tax on the sale of each gallon of gasoline, and it became law. This tax is now the largest single source of revenue for the County, having replaced the property tax in importance. According to Table II following, it now accounts for over twenty-nine percent of the County's yearly income, whereas the property tax accounts for about twenty percent. It is significant that the gas tax is the last new county tax levied—over 27 years ago. Too, there has been no increase in any County-wide tax since 1937—over 13 years ago. At this time an additional school tax was levied—after an election determined the voters of the County wanted it.

Aid from the State and Federal governments has also risen in recent years so as to provide nearly half of the County's revenue. However, this has not been **outright grants**, but rather **mostly** State levies collected in Madison County from Madison Countians, and either remaining in the County or being remitted to the State, with a proportionate share being returned to the County. The State tax on gasoline is an example of such a tax; it provided 22.5 percent of all the money received from the State. Other items within the category "aid from state government" are taxes on sales, deeds and mortgages, motor vehicle licenses, alcoholic beverages, franchises, excise and carbonic acid. In addition the State contributed \$65,479.44 to aid in the construction of "farm to market roads". Aid from the Federal government is largely in the form of payments made in lieu of taxes by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Receipts from licenses involves two types of government action: (1) the occupational license tax as a device to raise revenue—found predominantly in the South; and (2) licenses and permits bringing in small fees but designed primarily to permit the regulation of sanitary conditions and the like. As given in this report all of the money under the category "fines and fees" comes from the court system.

Other sources of revenue noted in Table II are 1.9 per cent of the income derived from using County equipment, when idle, on private work, and interest on money invested .1 per cent of the total income. Miscellaneous revenue amounted to .8 per cent of the total income.

TABLE II
Sources of Receipts for Madison County for Fiscal Year 1948-1949

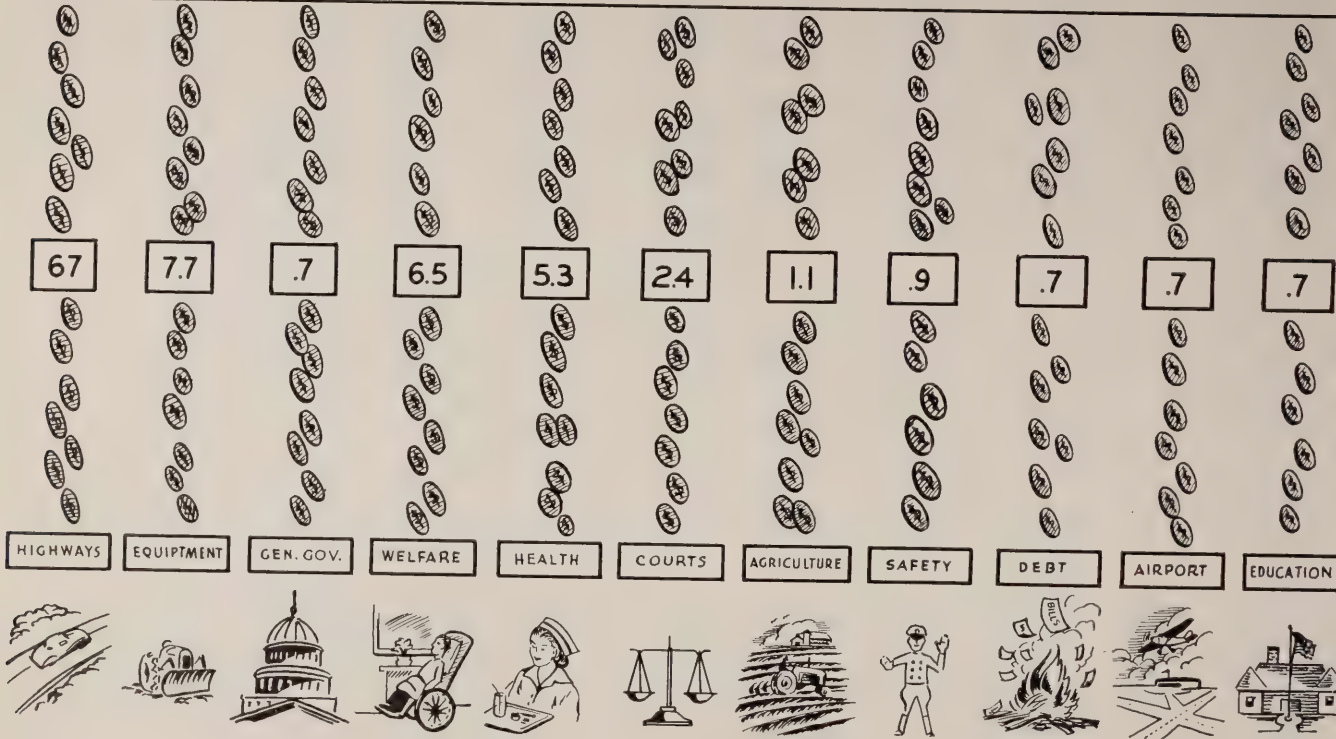
Sources	Amount	Per Cent of Total
Taxes:		
County Property Tax.....	\$ 202,594	20.1
County Gasoline Tax.....	292,510	29.3
County Licenses	13,466	1.4
Receipts from:		
State Government	441,271	43.9
Federal Government	4,455	0.4
Receipts from the use of:		
County Equipment	18,762	1.9
Money Invested	1,400	0.1
Fines and Fees	21,423	2.1
Miscellaneous	8,706	0.8
Total Receipts for Year.....	\$ 1,004,587	100.0
Plus Cash Balances Beginning of Year....	152,365	
TOTAL REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS	\$ 1,156,952	

WHERE THE COUNTY'S MONEY GOES

PERCENTAGES



COUNTY TREASURY



Description of the County's expenditures is important because it enables the citizens to discover the relative amount of service and effort that is being devoted to certain kinds of governmental activity. In terms of money spent, for instance, Madison County is concerned primarily with highway construction and maintenance. Almost three-fourths of the County's budget, including purchase of road machinery, was allotted for this purpose in the fiscal year 1948-1949. The size of expenditures for road construction and maintenance were heavy especially at this time because of the continuing impact of World War II and the resulting post-war economic conditions. Materials and labor for this type of construction were scarce during the war necessitating deferment of all kinds of construction activity; hence the Board of Commissioners was able to build up a money reserve for use after the war. Furthermore, upon request of the Federal government, the County sold a good part of its equipment to that government to further the war effort. Therefore, the task of replacing this equipment and launching a large-scale program of road work is now in order and has been underway for some time.

In addition to highways and road machinery, the third largest amount of expenditures (7%) went for the administration of the general functions of County government such as administrative salaries, fees, office supplies, utilities, insurance, travel, maintenance, administering elections, and miscellaneous items. However, the actual administrative cost of running the government was small—only 4.2 per cent of the total expenditures—while building maintenance accounted for 2.3 per cent, and miscellaneous .5 per cent. Administration of the courts took 2.4 per cent of the total of all expenditures.

Health and public welfare remained very important activities in Madison County. The County alone contributed 6.5 per cent of its budget for welfare purposes and 5.3 per cent for health. The aggregate of these contributions amounted to \$132,684, but this figure does not include the amounts contributed for health and welfare service in Madison County by the municipal, state and federal governments, which amounted to over \$700,000.

While Madison County's governmental activities are at a supposed near peak at this time, it is reasonable to presume that this condition will not continue in the years to come. Revenues are now beginning to level off, and it is quite possible that they will begin to decline in another year.

The County did not spend as much as 1.0 per cent for any other activity except the natural resource services, agriculture and forestry conservation. This constituted 1.1 per cent. However, this amount was deemed ample to provide all services needed in that field.

Other expenditures noted in Table III are public safety and correction .9 per cent; debt service (payment of bonded indebtedness) .7 per cent, construction of airport .7 per cent, and education and libraries .7 per cent.

It is interesting to note that the per capita expenditure of Madison County amounted to nearly \$15.

TABLE III

Objects of Expenditure for Madison County for the Fiscal Year 1948-1949

Activity	Amount	Percent of Total
Highways	\$ 752,162	67.0
Capital Equipment (Machinery)	85,834	7.7
General Government	78,007	7.0
Public Welfare	73,262	6.5
Public Health	59,422	5.3
Courts	27,212	2.4
Agriculture and Conservation	12,765	1.1
Public Safety and Correction	10,505	0.9
Debt Service	8,312	0.7
Airport	8,186	0.7
*Education and Libraries	7,423	0.7
TOTAL	\$ 1,123,090	100.0

*The Educational System is financed mainly from other sources.



CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT BUILDING ON WHICH CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN ABOUT MARCH, 1951.

HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES AND SERVICES

With over 60% of its area in farms and with only one major commercial city and market, Madison County is dependent in large measure on highway service. This applies to both farmers and merchants, and to professional men and most of the County's extensively developed industry. Dairying, modern diversified farming, school, milk depots, cotton gins, lumber mills and all business depend largely on highways for transportation and must have dependable all weather roads and bridges if they are to keep pace with progress in their several lines and compete successfully in their fields.

Since expenditures for highway and bridge construction and maintenance account for about two-thirds of the County's budget, it would be well to examine the items for which this money is spent.

Over the years, a vast road system has been built up throughout the County, and maintenance of the system requires such operations as constant gravel surfacing, grading, drainage, building of roads and bridges, and installations of culverts, as well as paving. Some \$600,000 of road machinery is operated and maintained to accomplish these operations. Highway improvements are carried out within the framework of a long range plan, based on traffic flow, road conditions, and maintenance, material and labor costs. The long range paving program consists of roads radiating in all directions, from the County seat somewhat like spokes in a wheel, with the rims and various communities connected. However, road building is not just the job of putting on blacktop. Each road is the product of months of planning to integrate it with other roads forming a system to serve the people best, not only today, but in years to come. A road must be designed, then constructed. If it crosses rivers or streams bridges must be planned and built. Every piece of material going into construction must meet certain rigid requirements laid down by the Board of Commissioners. Too, emphasis is also being placed on drainage and consequent beautification of internal and county-to-county connecting roads, as well as a highway sign system. From the days of 1840—when there was less than 120 miles of macadam roads—great strides have been made in the road construction, and can best be illustrated by comparison of road mileage of other years, as shown below:

MILES OF ROAD IN MADISON COUNTY

	1884	1939	1949
Paved State Highways	0	73	83
Paved County Roads	0	51.38	199.29
1st Class Gravel Roads	250	600	910
2nd & 3rd Class Gravel Roads	200	400	250
TOTAL MILES OF ROAD	450	1124.38	1442.29

(NOTE: All weather roads reach over 98% of all home sites in the county)

To illustrate how the money was spent in connection with road and bridge maintenance, there follows a breakdown of total highway maintenance expenses for the fiscal year 1948-1949:

TABLE IV
Highway Maintenance Cost for 1948-1949

Item	Amount	Per Cent of Total
Wages and Salaries	\$ 345,231.37	45.8
Equipment Operation and Maintenance.....	177,585.40	24.6
Materials used on Roads and Bridges	161,400.70	21.2
Contracts Let	58,069.51	7.2
Other Expenses	9,875.31	1.2
TOTAL COST	\$ 752,162.29	100.0



COUNTY HEAVY EQUIPMENT IN OPERATION, 1950.

It is interesting to record various costs of specific types of maintenance. During the last fiscal year, an average cost of paving one mile of road, with an average width of 18 feet using an average grade of paving materials, and laying a double bituminous surface heated with an additional liquid seal, was \$2,750. This figure included labor, supervision, equipment maintenance costs, materials, and other factors involved. Every yard of gravel put on the roads cost 7½ cents, crushed rock cost \$1.35 per ton, and operating one truck on a normal work day cost an average of \$16.80, while operating a patrol on a normal work day cost \$28.40, including depreciation, gas, oil, fuel, repairs and wages. Bridge lumber cost \$60 per thousand feet, and cement cost 88c per bag. Thus it can readily be seen that road and bridge maintenance is a costly item even with the most careful attention to operation costs. But nothing pays better than good roads—it costs some to get them—but they are the arteries which connect city and country—along which the life current of business, prosperity, safety and solid comfort perpetually flows.

FARM TO MARKET ROADS AND BRIDGES

In this category are roads and bridges on which the County received aid from the State and Federal Government. Madison County has always matched all money made available for this type of work, and has received, since the system was put into effect, around \$130,000 from the Federal Government, and \$350,000 from the State. This is perhaps one of the best all-around records in the State.



BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION OVER FLINT RIVER. THIS BRIDGE IS A PART OF THE COUNTY "FARM TO MARKET" ROAD SYSTEM.

HEALTH AND WELFARE PROGRAMS

During the last fiscal year, expenditures for aid to the needy continued to rank high in the County's budget. More than \$73,000 was contributed by the County alone for that purpose; and coupled with the grants from Federal, State, and municipal governments, the total sum available for welfare activities in the County amounted to approximately \$600,000.

This year was also a notable one for health programs. The more than \$50,000 contributed by the County was distributed as indicated by Table V.

TABLE V
Health Program Costs for the Fiscal Year 1948-1949

Object	Amount	Per Cent of Total
Hospital	\$ 11,850.00	19.9
District T.B. Sanatorium (Building)	25,000.00	42.0
Tuberculosis Patient Care	2,400.00	4.0
Care for the Insane	1,007.26	1.8
Vital Statistics	1,025.62	1.9
Mosquito Control	500.00	.8
General Health Purposes	17,639.42	29.6
TOTAL	\$ 59,422.30	100.0

In addition to the above expenditures, the Board of Commissioners has agreed to appropriate \$10,000 cash toward the construction of an \$80,000 Health Center for the County. This is in addition to the County's \$10,000 share in the building site, which was donated to the City and County by Dr. W. H. Burritt; and valued at \$20,000. Altogether, the amount of money made available for health purposes during the year 1948-1949 from City, Federal, State and County sources amounted to approximately \$108,000. This far-sighted attitude of our governing bodies towards health conditions, coupled with efficient, hardworking health department personnel, explains why statistics show Madison County has a lower death rate than the nation or state average.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

Perhaps the best indication of the sound financial condition of the County is the item in Table III called "debt service". This category included the interest and principal paid toward the retirement of the bonded debt; and unlike most counties in the United States, it is very small. In 1942, the Board floated a Refunding Road Bond Issue of \$70,000 and all but \$49,000 has been paid off. By 1956, barring unforeseen circumstances, Madison County will be entirely free of any indebtedness whatsoever.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Administration of the County's financial system has been made easier by the presence of the county gasoline tax. Too, the sound financial condition of the County is due in large part to improved and modernized financial procedures, as well as the forced cut in operations and sale of equipment during the World War II years.

BUDGETING

Legally, the Board of Commissioners is required to adopt a budget for the coming fiscal year before any money can be expended from the County Treasury. This procedure requires careful planning and foresight; estimates must be made, and proposed expenditures must be related to proposed work programs and estimated income. Thus the citizens of the County are assured of an intelligent method of appropriating funds.

Two months were required to prepare the County's final budget for the fiscal year 1948-1949. The money to be spent for that year was allocated to the various departments as follows:

Probate Judge	\$ 3,500	Commissioners Court	\$ 19,000
Tax Collector	1,600	Highways & Equipment	830,000
Tax Assessor	4,500	Board of Registrars	300
Register	700	Health Department	19,000
Sheriff	9,400	Welfare Department	74,000
Circuit Court	23,000	Forestry Division	3,000
Schools	7,500	T.B. Patients & Bldg.	27,400
Hospital	12,000	Extension Service	10,300
Library	2,400	Elections	6,200
Building Maintenance	30,000	Care of Insane	1,000
Curb Market	500	Inferior Court	4,000
Bonds & Insurance	1,800	Other Expenses	17,000

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SYSTEM

During the year 1949, the Board inaugurated a system of centralized purchasing of office supplies. This bulk buying, together with the newly installed purchase order system, will save the County thousands of dollars and ensure improved control of public funds as well as receipt of better quality materials. During the first year of its operation alone, it resulted in tremendous savings to the County.

Controls have been tightened, too, on private contractual work and the sale of equipment and material. A resolution by the present Board provides for close and continuing scrutiny of all such activities.

Finally, it should be noted that a new payroll system has been established to enable the Board to maintain proper supervision and control over payroll activities.

These improvements, show the continuing progress which Madison County is making toward strengthening and streamlining the administration of the County's governmental operations. **These Improvements Mean Progress.**



ONE PHASE OF THE COMMISSIONER'S PROGRESSIVE PLAN OF ADVERTISING THE COUNTY'S RESOURCES. SIMILAR SIGNS HAVE BEEN PLACED AT ALL ROAD ENTRANCES TO MADISON COUNTY, INDICATING THE MILEAGE TO HUNTSVILLE.

The question of how much Madison County is worth rises frequently, and an attempt is made here to answer that question. However, valuing a County's net worth is not like valuing a private business, and is practically impossible to answer to a close degree. But by valuing the County's larger assets at an estimated replacement value, a fair estimate can be made. The following statement lists only those assets under the direct control of the Board of Commissioners, and includes only those owned as of September 30, 1949:

WHAT THE COUNTY OWNS

Cash on Hand and in Banks	\$	33,862.72
Road Machinery and Equipment		616,400.00
Office Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures		103,000.00
*Buildings and Real Estate		1,680,000.00
Miscellaneous		10,000.00
Investment in U. S. Bonds		144,000.00
		<hr/>
TOTAL THE COUNTY OWNS	\$	2,587,262.72

WHAT THE COUNTY OWES

Bonded Indebtedness	\$	49,000.00
Current Accounts Payable & Accrued Taxes		41,622.99
		<hr/>
TOTAL THE COUNTY OWES	\$	90,622.99

WHAT THE COUNTY IS WORTH **\$ 2,496,639.73**

*Does not include roads.

The foregoing statement deals only with that property which the Board of Commissioners has control over. A check of the assessment records for the year 1949 indicates that the fair and reasonable market valuation of all property within the County, privately owned and otherwise, would probably amount to considerably over 100 million dollars. For comparative purposes, assessed valuations of Madison County are listed in the chart below:

***ASSESSED VALUATIONS OF PROPERTY**

	1921	1939	1949
Real Estate and Buildings	_____	\$15,731,580.00	\$17,606,000.00
Personal Property	_____	1,438,760.00	2,495,000.00
Corporations	_____	3,295,360.00	7,036,020.00
Public Utilities	_____	882,520.00	1,968,500.00
Motor Vehicles	_____	1,963,320.00	2,278,048.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$26,194,939.00	\$23,311,540.00	\$31,383,568.00

*Madison County ranks eighth in the State in amount of taxable wealth.

SUMMARY

Madison County is big business; its budget amounted to more than one million dollars during the last fiscal year. As a result of the willingness of the citizens to support county government adequately, Madison County now has a system of roads second to none in Alabama, and holds a superior financial standing. That this money has been handled wisely and prudently for the most part is indicated by the low bonded indebtedness of the County and by the introduction of new, streamlined methods of administrative planning and control.

The record of Madison's officials merits the continued confidence of the entire County.

For informative purposes, there follows a detailed financial statement for the years operations of 1948-1949.

REVENUE

County's Share in State Taxes and Licenses; Etc.:

Gasoline Tax	\$ 225,727.22	
Part of Co. Engineers Salary	1,666.60	
Franchise Tax	2,683.09	
Sales Tax for Welfare	30,667.56	
Beer and Liquor Licenses & Profits	41,021.00	
Excise tax	4,639.58	
Carbonic Acid tax	990.97	
Sales tax for Extension Service	11,725.56	
Sales tax for Health Department	8,400.00	
Share in Farm to Market Roads	65,479.44	
Sales tax for Old Age Assistance	15,094.08	
Liquor tax for Welfare	2,985.07	
Deed Tax	2,561.39	
Motor Vehicle Licenses	24,198.38	
Forestry Licenses	286.59	
Mortgage Tax	3,144.64	
TOTAL		\$ 441,271.17
County Ad Valorem Tax		\$ 202,593.62
County Gasoline Tax		\$ 292,510.26
County Privilege Licenses		\$ 13,466.10

U.S. Government and Agencies:

T.V.A. in lieu of taxes	\$ 2,103.08	
Huntsville Housing Authority in lieu of taxes	2,340.00	
U.S. Migratory Bird Act	11.65	
TOTAL		\$ 4,454.73

Courts:

Circuit Court Clerk	\$ 1,448.54	
Inferior Court Clerk	4,505.83	
Register Circuit Court	468.95	
Fine and Forfeiture Fund	15,000.00	
		\$ 21,423.32

Rentals of County Equipment, and sale of materials	\$ 18,762.23
Miscellaneous Sources	\$ 8,706.03
Interest on Bonds	\$ 1,400.00
Bank Balance at beginning of year	\$ 152,365.50

TOTAL REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEAR

Oct. 1, 1948-Sept. 30, 1949

\$ 1,156,952.96

DISBURSEMENTS:**Road and Bridge Maintenance:**

For Payrolls	\$ 345,231.37
Gas, Oil, Grease, Fuel	68,309.86
Eqpt. Repair parts and supplies	81,208.91
Tires and Tubes	28,066.63
Paving Materials	90,006.99
Maintenance & Construct. Mater.	71,393.71
Contracts Let	58,069.51
Miscellaneous	9,875.31

TOTAL \$ 752,162.29

For Welfare Purposes **73,261.64**

New Equipment and Machinery **85,833.61**

For Improving and Aiding Health Conditions:

Hospital	\$ 11,850.00
Care of T.B. Patients	2,400.00
Mosquito Control	500.00
Building of T.B. Sanitorium	25,000.00
Care of Insane	1,007.26
For General Health Purposes	18,665.04

TOTAL \$ 59,422.30

Cost of Holding Courts:

Salaries	\$ 16,448.56
Juror Expenses	10,763.38

TOTAL \$ 27,211.94

Cost of conducting elections **5,535.23**

Cost of Protection for Residents & Property:

Deputies Salaries	\$ 8,081.25
Protection of Forests	3,000.00
Miscellaneous	645.25

TOTAL \$ 11,726.50

Airport project expense **8,186.00**

Paying off bonded indebtedness and interest **8,312.50**

Maintenance of buildings and grounds:

Courthouse	\$ 16,670.76
Annex	8,550.13
Jail	1,779.00
Curb Market	452.50

TOTAL \$ 27,452.39

Education:

Supplies and Eqpt. for Board of Education	\$ 2,022.88
Maintenance of School Grounds	3,000.00
Library	2,400.00

TOTAL \$ 7,422.88

Extension Service **9,765.03**

Cost of Operating Government:

Administrative Salaries	\$ 18,236.49
Ex Officio Fees	1,600.00
Office Supplies	9,698.94
Utilities	6,909.84
Heating	3,615.73
Special Fees	1,825.00
Insurance and Bond Premiums	2,596.87
Travel Expenses	575.94
Miscellaneous	1,739.12

TOTAL \$ 46,797.93

TOTAL MONEY SPENT DURING

THE FISCAL YEAR \$ 1,123,090.24

Which subtracted from the total revenue of \$1,156,952.96,
equals the amount of cash surplus left to apply on the
next years operations

\$ 33,862.72





SECTION V

Other Facts and Statistics About Madison County

TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS

SINCE YOUR present Board of Commissioners took office in November, 1948, a close spirit of cooperation between the Commissioners, as well as the employees, has existed. Outstanding services rendered to the people of Madison County include:

(1) An important project, never before so thoroughly undertaken, was the inauguration of drainage work. The Board realized that drainage is the most important phase of road maintenance, and spent much time in planning a long range drainage program, along with the program for paved roads, and other forms of road work. This program was necessary because some gravel roads were beginning to wash away, and various paved roads were being undermined by water. Drainage work consisted of giving enough "crown" on the roads for water to shed off; preparing broad gravelled shoulders; proper ditching; and shade removed from the right of way. A by-product of this drainage work has been consequent beautification of the right of way. However, in regard to present roads not having proper drainage, it is stressed that not a great many of them had poor drainage. This drainage project was utilized primarily on new roads, and the main thoroughfares.

(2) The Board, working in conjunction with the Lions Club, provided space for a Blind Man's Concession stand in the Courthouse lobby, and thus provided rehabilitation for a needy person.

(3) The office of County Gas Tax Inspector was reestablished, and proved a wise action. During the first year of the present administration, the Inspector found several tax delinquencies and collected over \$10,000 that may not have been found otherwise. Most of these delinquencies had existed for several years.

(4) Due to the increased load of County Charity patients at the Huntsville Hospital, the Board increased the appropriation to the Hospital approximately \$5,000 per year.

(5) The Board appropriated \$25,000 for construction of a Tuberculosis Sanitorium.

(6) Evidencing a desire to correct and improve election abuses, the Board, in cooperation with the Home Demonstration Clubs and the American Legion, sponsored a local law to create a full time Clerk to the Board of Registrars, at the same time furnishing supplies to this Board. Too, the Board of Commissioners reestablished precinct voting lines, bearing in mind the convenience of the voting public. This latter action will probably be recorded in the pages of history as one of the most important acts of the Board in the twentieth century.

(7) Shortly after the Board took office, the County suffered probably the most severe and devastating flood in its history, with many farms and homes being flooded, and with over \$75,000 damage to County roads and bridges. After lengthy discussion and engineering, the Board participated with the City of Huntsville in enlargement and improvement of a canal, the Big Spring Branch, which will probably prevent flood conditions again in a large section of the County.

(8) The Board availed itself of every opportunity to profitably advertise the agricultural, industrial, and recreational resources of Madison County, and joined other agencies and organizations in this type of project. Among such efforts were:

- (a) Assistance to the Optimist Club in promoting the First Air Show of its kind ever held in North Alabama. This show was instrumental in helping Madison County become known as the "Air Center of North Alabama". The Board also assisted the Optimist Club in preparing a recreation park in Dallas Village.
- (b) Several thousand pictorial folders advertising Madison County were purchased and distributed to prospective newcomers to Madison County.
- (c) Assistance was given the Extension Service and other farm organizations in promoting an annual 4H Calf Show for both white and Negro farm youths. These shows were highly successful and have resulted in promoting better care and breeding of livestock in the County.

- (d) Assistance in securing several Conventions for Madison County, bringing in large amounts of money to the County.
 - (e) Presentation of this report to the County citizens, as well as circulating it to other parts of the State and Nation.
 - (f) Construction of a County Roadside Park on Monte Sano Mountain. The Park has been visited by hundreds of tourists who can be seen taking pictures, resting, and admiring the view afforded at the park.
 - (g) Signs have been constructed at all highway entrances to Madison County, which welcome the visitor to the County and promote the County's Industry, Agriculture, and Recreation.
 - (h) Assistance was given the Home Demonstration Clubs in various phases of their Community Improvement projects. Outstanding assistance was given in particular on "Clean Up" projects.
- (9) Construction was continued on the Madison County Boat Harbor, through adverse conditions. The Harbor was begun in the spring of 1948 by the preceding Board, and is expected to open to the public in 1951.
- (10) The present Board has made an extensive traffic survey, and has instituted a five year plan for a Highway Sign system for County roads. This plan will be the first complete system in the State, and when completed, all main County roads will have signs indicating the name of the road.
- (11) The Board assisted in securing from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service use of a stone building near Triana, Alabama, for use as a Negro Health Center. This is believed to be the first action of this kind in the South, and will prove to be of inestimable value to the Negroes of the Community.
- (12) The Board established many new controls over payroll, inventory, and private work activities, designed for better control over public funds, and for increased efficiency and economy.
- (13) Employee-Employer relationships have been cemented through institution of a Group Insurance Plan for the first time in the County's history. This plan has admittedly prevented some employees from becoming pauperized. Too, the Board has recognized the fact that the great majority of County employees have been faithful to their work, and are efficient and hard-working, as well as having a pay scale considerably under that of private business. As a consequence, and because of high living costs, a countywide pay increase was granted to the employees, which more nearly placed the County pay scale in line with that of private business.
- (14) Other outstanding services were rendered, that rightfully should go in this report, but were covered in other parts of this report, and for that reason are not included here.

AUDIT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Excerpts of the audit of the Board by the State Department of Examiners of Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1949, are given here:

"Letters from the depositories certifying to the balances on hand as of September 30, 1949 of all funds were obtained and verified with balances shown on general ledger in the office".

"Minutes were scrutinized as to actions of the Board during the period under examination and indicate that a proper quorum was had at all meetings. Claims paid during the period under examination were properly listed showing warrant number, amount, and to whom paid."

"Revenue receipts shown were verified to cash journal and to the various depositories for the period under examination and all funds coming to the County from the State and miscellaneous individuals were properly accounted for and verified to the revenue ledger and to the various accounts."

"Requisitions and purchase orders were shown written for all equipment and supplies purchased."

"Paid bonds and interest coupons were examined and found in order. Bonds and coupons were verified with the bond register individually and initialled."

"The Annual Budget for 1948-1949 fiscal year was made and recorded as required by Title 12, Section 74, 1940 Code."

"Minutes are being indexed" (as required by law)

"Cooperation shown during the course of this examination by the officials is acknowledged".

Quotations from the Huntsville Times, newspaper of Madison County, in regard to the appearance of the State Auditor before the Board of Commissioners is as follows:

"He (the State Auditor) praised the change in procedure which had been established by the Commissioners since 1949 and made favorable comment on records kept since that time. Recommended changes made by the Auditor were what he called minor departures from accepted procedure, and he praised the Commissioners for the job done to date".

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Since Madison County is one of the more prosperous agricultural Counties of the State, various statistics concerning it are given here:

*The total area of Madison County is roughly sixty percent farms and more than thirty percent woodlands. The remainder is urban and industrial lands, government and arsenal property, lands used for recreation, and water covered area.

*The annual farm income of Madison County is over \$20,000,000.

*The annual average sunshine is 2,600 hours, or more than seven hours a day.

*The average growing season is about 200 days a year.

*Agricultural products include; Cotton, corn, vetch, wheat, barley, oats, strawberries, apples, peaches, tobacco, lespedeza seed and hay, peanuts, watermelons, cantaloupes, potatoes, beans, cucumbers, lettuce, sorghum, sugar cane, rye, pears, alfalfa, peas, fescue, clover, okra, beans, squash, tomatoes, and the raising of various livestock such as sheep, cattle, hogs, chickens, turkeys, horses, and mules.

*The County is almost entirely underlaid by Limestone. Sandstone is found in many sections of the County.



A FIELD OF TOBACCO IN MADISON COUNTY



CHICKEN FARMING—IN WHICH THE COUNTY RANKS EIGHTH IN THE STATE



A TYPICAL FLOCK OF SHEEP IN MADISON COUNTY

- *The County ranks 5th in the State in Milk production.
- *The County ranks 1st in the State in Cotton production.
- *The County ranks 6th in the State in Hog production.
- *The County ranks 8th in the State in Chicken production.
- *The County ranks 15th in the State in the number of dairy cattle.
- *There are 45 Grade A and 345 Grade B Dairies.

*In 1948, the County set an all time record in the State with an average corn yield of 34.2 bushels per acre. (In 1946 the yield was only 19).

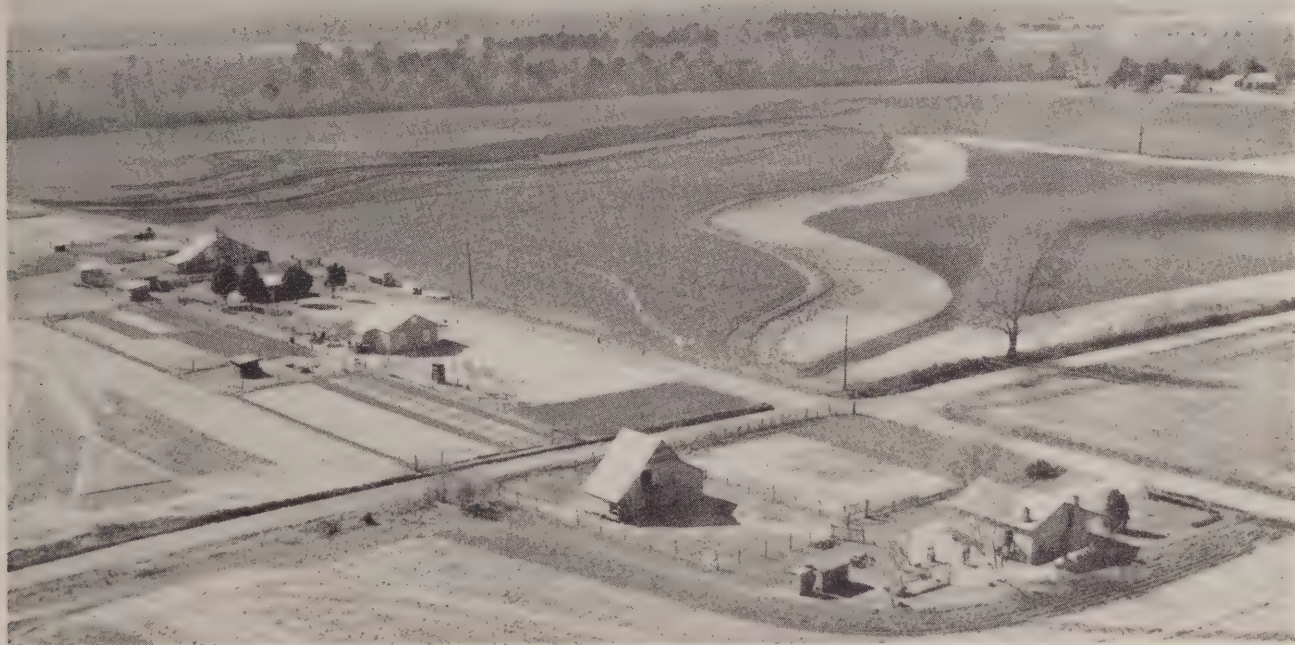
*In 1948, the County set an all time record in the State in cotton production, with over 84,000 bales being raised. (In 1949 it was 55,000).

*The average cotton yield to the acre for the County in 1949 was 331 pounds, as compared with a State average of 288. In 1939, the County's yield was 230, as compared with a State yield of 182.

*Over 70,000 acres in the County have been terraced.

*In 1949, there was 266,000 acres in Cropland, with land selling from \$100 to \$200 per acre. In 1888, there was 213,221 acres in Cropland, with land selling from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per acre.

*The County has over 3,200 tractors, 300 combines, 175 corn pickers, and probably has more than any other County.



A FEW OF THE COUNTY'S 70,000 TERRACED ACRES



A FIELD OF YOUNG HYBRID CORN IN MADISON COUNTY

LOCATION OF VARIOUS COUNTY AGENCIES

In checking over old records, it was found that no record was made of the location of the various County agencies in past years, and for this reason, the present location of these offices are listed here.

THE COURTHOUSE

Basement

Engineering Dept.
Vaults and Storage
of Records

First Floor

Board of Commissioners
Tax Assessor
Tax Collector
Register of Circuit Court
Probate Judge
License Inspector

Second Floor

Sheriff
Inferior Court Judge
Circuit Court Judge
Circuit Court Clerk
Solicitor
Probation Officer
Court Rooms
Court Reporter

THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Basement

Welfare Department
*Health Department
Forestry Division

Second Floor

*Production and Marketing Administration
Extension Service
Home Demonstration Agent
*Health Department

First Floor

*Board of Education
Veterans Affairs Dept.
Community Chest Hq.
Board of Registrars

Third Floor

*Production and Marketing Administration
*Health Department
*Board of Education

* Indicates location in more than one place.



• COURTHOUSE ANNEX (COMMONLY CALLED THE ELK'S BUILDING). (THE LARGE REAR SECTION IS LEASED AS A THEATER).

• MAIN COUNTY GARAGE

VARIOUS HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST

No attempt has been made to completely cover all historic points of interest, because this would be a never-ending task. However, many of the points usually referred to around the County, are listed, with certain information compiled about them.

Stone Marker, at Gates and Franklin Street, Huntsville, marking the site where Alabama entered the Union in 1819.

Marker, at East Holmes, and Lincoln Street, Huntsville, marking the site of General Andrew Jackson's Camp when his troops were enroute to the Creek War in 1813.

Marker, on the North Side of the Courthouse, bearing the names of 84 Revolutionary veterans buried in Madison County.

Statue, on the Southwest corner of the Courthouse lawn, commemorating the Confederate dead of Madison County, erected in 1900.

Marker, on Gurley Highway, marking the nearby location of the first Baptist Church in the State of Alabama.

First National Bank Building, at the corner of Jefferson Street and Fountain Row, in Huntsville, being one of the oldest bank buildings in the State of Alabama, and with perhaps the most outstanding architecture. (Grecian Ionic). It was built in 1836, was used as a Commissary by Federal Troops during Huntsville's occupation in 1862, and has perhaps the most distinctive former slave quarters in the County.

Maple Hill Cemetery, at California and Wells, Huntsville. Here seven former Governors, and other outstanding Madison Countians are buried.

Pope Home, 412 Echols Hill, Huntsville. This was the home of Leroy Pope "Father of Huntsville", so-called because he owned most of the property at one time. It was constructed in 1815.

Walker Home, 412 McClung Street, Huntsville. This was the home of the First Secretary of the War for the Confederate States of America, Leroy Pope Walker. From this house was issued the order for the first shot at Fort Sumter.

Clay Home, 440 Eustis Street, Huntsville. This was the home of one of the South's most famous Senators and Governors, Clement Comer Clay, for whom the Tennessee River Bridge at Farley is named. The home was built in 1830.

Neal Home, 558 Franklin Street, Huntsville. It was the birthplace of John Hunt Morgan, Confederate Cavalry Leader Nationally known in the 1860's as the "Rebel Raider". The home was built in 1822.

Weeden Home, 301 Gates Street, Huntsville. It was the home of Miss Howard Weeden, nationally famous poetess and painter. The Home was built in 1824.

Moore Home, 603 Adams Ave., Huntsville. It was used as the headquarters of Federal General Logan, during the Civil War in 1862. It was built in 1821, and also has the distinction of having been used as a reception in 1891 for the world champion Cow, Lilly Flag, for which the community of Lilly Flag is named.

Bibb Home, 303 Williams Street, Huntsville. It was built by Thos. Bibb, Second Governor of Alabama in 1824. The home has been cited as a perfect example of colonial architecture.

Fearn Home, 517 Franklin Street, Huntsville. It was the home of Dr. Thomas Fearn, who discovered the nature of quinine, with the consequent cure of malaria. He is also credited with naming Monte Sano Mountain. The Home was built in 1822. Dr. Fearn was also a physician for Andrew Jackson during the Creek War of 1813.

Brickell Home, 614 Franklin Street, Huntsville. This house has the distinction of having housed the first sewerage system bathroom (1870) in Huntsville. It was built in 1821.

McClung Home, 415 McClung Street, Huntsville. This home was built in 1838, being the home of a famous legislator, James McClung, and was the scene of many of Virginia Clay Clopton's (Belle of the Fifties) triumphs.

Cabaniss Home, 2½ miles northeast of Hazel Green, Alabama. This was the home of the builder of the first Cotton Cloth mill in Alabama, Charles Cabaniss. The building was constructed between 1809 and 1815.

Ewing Home, 2000 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville. It was the home of one of the South's most prominent bankers and was constructed in 1825.

Gurley Home, 2 miles north of Gurley, Alabama. It was the home of Captain Frank Gurley, one of General Nathan Forrest's right hand men. The town of Gurley is named after him.

Kelly Home, Jeff, Alabama. This home was built in 1829, once serving as a Postoffice due to unsettled conditions, and is one of the more famous architectural gems of the County.

Otey Home, near Meridianville, Alabama. This was the home of Madison County's first Probate Judge, and was built in 1850.

High Brown Routt Home, one mile east of Hazel Green, Alabama. This home was built on an Indian Mound, and figures in the history of the County due to scandal connected with its early owner, Mrs. High Brown Routt.

Sivley Home, between Huntsville Park and Whitesburg, one mile Southeast of Huntsville Park. This home was built in 1810, and is suggestive of Feudal England.

Steele Home, Maysville road. This home was built in 1840, by Steele, the Builder of the First National Bank Building. Steele was known as one of the outstanding Architects in the South.

Scruggs Home, 2 miles east of Chase, Alabama. The home was built in 1812, and its owner was one of the first settlers of the County.

McCrary Home, two miles north of Three Forks of Flint River and 1½ miles west of Deposit. It was built in 1812, and was the home of the County's most prominent manufacturer of that day.

Strong Home, one mile south of Meridianville, Alabama. This home was built around 1830 from lumber taken from one of the early river boats, which was found wrecked.

Bone Home, three miles northeast of Maysville, Alabama. It was built in 1830, and was the home of a famous preacher of the day.

Lee Home, four miles west of Whitesburg. It was built in 1819, and is noted as having an exceedingly beautiful circular stairway.

Big Spring Branch, at corner of Gallatin and Canal Streets, Huntsville, marking the terminus of the first Canal in the State of Alabama. This canal ran from here to the Tennessee River, and was built by the Indian River Navigation Company in 1821. Many barges traversed this canal.

Courthouse Annex (Elks Building), Eustis Street, one block east of the Courthouse. This building was originally built in 1906 at a cost of \$100,000 by the Elks Lodge, and for many years served as an Opera House. Today it is the sole remaining marker to Huntsville's cooperative effort to become one of the chain of theatrical centers over the nation. Prohibition forced the sale of the building at auction in 1913, and in 1937 the County purchased it for \$20,000.

Criner Cabin, 3 miles northeast of New Market, Alabama. This home was built in 1837, being the second home of Isaac Criner, reputedly the first permanent white settler in the County.

Buckhorn Tavern Site, three miles south of New Market, near the intersection of the Deposit and New Market Roads. This was supposedly the first tavern in North Alabama.

Greenway Home, 528 Adams Ave., Huntsville. This home was built in 1827 and was the birthplace of Capt. John Greenway, nationally famous Yale football star, and a member of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

Old Postoffice Building, on Greene Street between Randolph and Eustis Streets. This building was built in 1889 and served for many years as a federal postoffice and court building.

Quietdale, East Side of Meridian Pike. This home is noted as the home of "Black Bill" Robinson, early sheriff of Madison County, and also the first Brick Manufacturer. It was built in 1840.

Wade Home, one mile southwest of Meridianville, Alabama. It was built from a design on the face of a Seth Thomas Clock, and was the residence of a grandniece of "Stonewall" Jackson.

Calhoun Place, corner of Eustis and Green St. The building has long ago burned but housed the Court where Frank James was tried for robbery in 1884.

Times Building, at the corner of Green and East Holmes Streets, Huntsville. This building is the tallest office building in Huntsville, and houses the Huntsville Times newspaper.

State National Bank Building, at the corner of Jefferson and West Clinton Streets, Huntsville. This building was the first "skyscraper" built in Huntsville.

Oakwood College, two miles west of Pulaski Pike, near the Country Club. This is an outstanding Negro Theological School.

Courthouse, Huntsville. This Courthouse is regarded as one of the more famous courthouses of the nation. The lawns are beautifully kept. At one time deer and peacocks were kept on the grounds. The Lamps on each side of the Courthouse at the street entrance to the grounds were the start of the first "Whiteway" for Huntsville, having been erected in September 1913.

Masonic Temple, corner Lincoln and Williams Streets, Huntsville. This is the oldest Masonic lodge in Alabama. Andrew Jackson attended many meetings of the lodge.

Redstone Arsenal, southwest of Huntsville. Site of the nation's largest rocket and guided missile research.

Huntsville Public Library, corner of Gates and Madison Streets, Huntsville. This is the oldest continuing library in Alabama. Here, too, was instituted the nation's first Bookmobile service.

McDowell Home, 517 Adams Ave., Huntsville. This home was used as the headquarters of Federal General Mitchell, during the Civil War, after Huntsville fell to the Federal Troops in 1862. The home was built in 1848.

Oaklawn, West side of Meridian Pike. The home was built in 1844, and quartered many soldiers during the Spanish American War. It also served as a hospital during the Civil War. It is noted as being one of the more beautiful colonial homes in America.

No. 10, West Side Square, Huntsville. On the site of the present building was located the first Bank in the State of Alabama, the old Planters and Merchants Bank, constructed in 1818. It burned in 1829.

Monte Sano State Park, East side of Huntsville, Alabama. This park, located on famed Monte Sano Mountain, has rapidly become one of the more popular tourist resorts of the South.

East Clinton Grammar School, at the corner of Calhoun Street, Huntsville. This building stands on the site of the second College formed in Alabama, the Greene Academy.

Bell Factory, ten miles northeast of Huntsville on the Flint River. Foundations still remain of the Bell Factory, the first cotton cloth manufacturing plant in Alabama.

Shelta Cavern, East side of Pulaski Pike near the Country Club. This cave was open to the public for years, with many parties and dances being given. In the cave may be seen many stalactites and stalagmites, and a crystal lake.

Huntsville Cave. This cave runs underneath the City of Huntsville, with its entrance at the Big Spring. Many explorations have been made of this cave, with consequent discovery of fossil remains.

Big Spring. This spring, located near the center of Huntsville, has furnished the water supply of Huntsville since the earliest days, and formed the nucleus for the South's first—and the nation's second—public waterworks system. The spring has become world famous.

Episcopal Church Building, at the corner of Eustis and Green Streets, Huntsville. This church is one of the most classic examples of Gothic Architecture in America. It was constructed in 1859.

First Presbyterian Church Building, at the corner of Lincoln and Gates Streets in Huntsville. This building was built in 1858, and is probably the oldest church building in Madison County.

First Baptist Church Building, at the corner of West Clinton and Gallatin Streets in Huntsville. The Baptist congregation using this church are the successor's to the oldest Baptist congregation in the State of Alabama.

Central Presbyterian Church Building, at the corner of Randolph and Lincoln streets in Huntsville. On the site of this church was formed the first Presbyterian church in Alabama.

Agricultural and Mechanical Institute, Normal, Alabama. This college is the oldest Negro college in the State, and also one of the more beautiful. Too, on its site stood the first Hostelry in the State, the old Greenbottom Inn, where Andrew Jackson raced his horses. Jackson also owned land near here.

Corner, Jefferson and West Clinton Streets, site of Huntsville's first Opera House.

Hampton Home, ½ mile south of Meridianville, Alabama. This home, constructed in 1811, over 139 years ago, is probably the oldest home in the County still standing and occupied.

Burritt Home, Monte Sano Mountain. Built on the highest point in Madison County.

Pynchon Home, 518 Adams Ave., Huntsville. This is one of the older homes in Huntsville, and was built by Thos. Bibb, second Governor of Ala. It was occupied for many years by Dr. Pynchon, a prominent physician noted for his "yellow fever" treatments.

White Home, 461 Eustis St., Huntsville. This home was the residence of Thos. White, for whom the community of Whitesburg is named.

Eustis St., Huntsville. This street has the longest residential block in the U. S. It was previously known as "Maiden Lane".

SCHOOL STATISTICS, COUNTY SYSTEM

NO. ONE TEACHER SCHOOLS	1922-1923			1947-1948		
	FOURTEEN			NONE		
	No. Students Enrolled	School Day Term	Annual Teacher Salaries	No. Students Enrolled	School Day Term	Annual Teacher Salaries
Oakley	53	90	427.50	0	0	0
Sitney	55	115	373.75	0	0	0
Howard	60	120	450.00	0	0	0
Banyan	50	79	467.50	0	0	0
Gladstone	40	118	420.00	0	0	0
Hickory Grove	40	189	443.50	0	0	0
Cedar Point	28	120	390.00	0	0	0
Beech Grove	32	100	375.00	0	0	0
Berkley	50	120	393.50	0	0	0
Poplar Ridge	34	130	460.75	0	0	0
Glen Grove	46	86	342.50	0	0	0
Clouds Cove	76	112	370.50	0	0	0
Oak Grove	36	115	484.00	0	0	0
Maple Grove	50	120	450.00	0	0	0
NO. TWO TEACHER SCHOOLS	ELEVEN			TWO		
Hill	73	113	667.25	0	0	0
Mable Hill	82	110	880.00	0	0	0
Killingsworth Cove	105	156	922.00	0	0	0
Cedar Point	80	120	923.75	81	176	2792.50
Cave Spring	119	120	840.00	57	176	2313.00
Vann	90	100	675.00	0	0	0
Farley	107	128	938.50	0	0	0
Taylorsville	91	120	820.00	0	0	0
Union Grove	95	119	989.25	0	0	0
Nebo	85	158	925.00	0	0	0
Reagan	73	100	750.00	0	0	0
NO. THREE TEACHER SCHOOLS	THREE			TWO		
Plevna	148	139	1334.75	116	176	3951.60
Pulaski Pike	96	119	1376.00	0	0	0
New Sharon	178	120	1286.00	0	0	0
Union Grove	0	0	0	105	176	5466.00
NO. FOUR TEACHER SCHOOLS	SIX			FOUR		
Elkwood	290	139	1806.75	0	0	0
Harvest	180	137	1978.25	163	176	4913.50
Hurricane	171	119	2032.50	133	176	5020.40
Gurley	190	158	2215.00	0	0	0
Big Cove	182	118	1904.25	165	176	6439.65
Owens X Roads	164	132	1772.25	0	0	0
Pulaski Pike	0	0	0	179	176	7152.00
NO. FIVE TEACHER SCHOOLS	FOUR			TWO		
Hazel Green	233	134	2747.25	0	0	0
Meridianville	241	176	2573.25	221	176	7373.99
Lincoln	249	116	2457.75	0	0	0
Toney	210	119	2557.00	0	0	0
New Sharon	0	0	0	209	176	7067.99

Ninety-three

No. Six (or more) Teacher Schools**TEN****SEVENTEEN**

Walnut Grove	280	118	2925.00	286	176	13199.25
Monrovia	254	133	2252.50	496	176	21799.05
Madison	237	175	3574.96	433	176	22929.46
Central	390	157	3757.46	328	176	11517.24
New Market	296	179	4186.61	460	176	22470.46
Rison	414	179	3395.00	584	176	34422.74
West Huntsville	665	158	4760.00	1382	176	56177.24
New Hope	372	154	6363.24	770	176	42437.96
Joe Bradley	590	177	5146.00	762	176	42437.86
Riverton	337	176	7004.30	617	176	24601.46
Elkwood	0	0	0	306	176	8619.25
Farley	0	0	0	568	176	21095.00
Hazel Green	0	0	0	662	176	38817.99
Lincoln	0	0	0	742	176	40008.75
Madison Co. High (Gurley)	0	0	0	679	176	24775.21
Owens X Roads	0	0	0	356	176	11028.49
Toney	0	0	0	319	176	10889.49

1922-1923**1947-1948****NO. PERSONS EMPLOYED BY SCHOOLS**

Grades 1-7 Men	16	Grades 1-7 Men	4
Women	111	Women	161
Grades 8-12 Men	25	Grades 7-12 Men	50
Women	18	Women	63

PUPILS ENROLLED

Grades 1-7 Boys	3783	Grades 1-6 Boys	3312
Girls	3669	Girls	3001
Grades 8-12 Boys	265	Grades 7-12 Boys	1638
Girls	300	Girls	1817

AGGREGATE ATTENDANCE

Grades 1-7	625,534	Grades 1-6	889,392
Grades 8-11	61,937	Grades 7-12	513,202

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

Grades 1-7	4,870	5,052
Grades 8-11	388	2,916

SCHOOL BUILDING STATISTICS, COUNTY SYSTEM

(Does not Include City of Huntsville)

SCHOOL NAME	MAIN DATE OF BUILDING'S CONSTRUCTION	GRADES TAUGHT	COST OF BUILDING'S AND EQUIPMENT
Poplar Ridge	1886-1911	Vacant	\$ 1,250.00
Cave Spring	1925	1-6	3,925.00
Cedar Point	1909-1917	Vacant	2,400.00
Union Grove	1920	Vacant	3,900.00
Big Cove	1914-1938	1-9	8,300.00
Harvest	1939-1948	1-9	14,250.00
Owens X Roads	1949	1-9	114,000.00
Plevna	1937	1-6	9,750.00
Meridianville	1948	1-9	44,000.00
New Sharon	1926-1946	1-9	14,000.00
Pulaski Pike	1939	1-6	15,550.00
Madison X Roads	1949	1-9	177,500.00
Central	1931-1936-1947	1-9	37,150.00
Elkwood	1919-1926	Vacant	9,250.00
Farley	1939-1943-1944	1-9	64,312.00
Farley	1935-1957	1-2	3,600.00
Hazel Green	1929-1950	9-12	54,700.00
Hazel Green	1950	1-8	71,000.00
Hurricane	1919	1-6	7,800.00
Joe Bradley	1919-1928	1-12	79,000.00
Lincoln	1929	1-12	60,000.00
Madison	1936-1950	1-12	78,800.00
Monrovia	1919-1939-1949	1-12	75,950.00
New Hope	1919-1935-1949	7-12	113,727.00
New Hope	1950	1-6	81,000.00
New Market	1938-1940	1-12	63,750.00
Rison	1921-1947	1-12	125,500.00
Riverton	1918-1919-1937	1-12	88,800.00
Walnut Grove	1918-1930	1-9	23,150.00
West Huntsville	1915-1935	1-6	24,500.00
West Huntsville	1944	7-12	181,650.00
Madison County High (Gurley)	1935-1936	1-12	99,600.00
Gurley	1912	Vacant	9,500.00
Rosenwald	1925	1-9	3,750.00
Farmers Capital Rosenwald	1928-1950	1-7	5,700.00
Conyer Rosenwald	1917-1948	1-9	11,250.00
Mt. Carmel Rosenwald	1924	1-6	3,450.00
Councill	1947	1-12	230,000.00
Mt. Lebanon Rosenwald	1924	1-8	2,900.00
Farley	1928-1947	1-9	4,400.00
			<hr/> \$2,023,014.00

LIST OF CIVIC AND SERVICE CLUBS IN MADISON COUNTY

Among these organizations are the Rotary, Kiwanis, Acme, Lions, Exchange, Civitan, Salesman, Optimist, Y's Men, Pilots, Grace, Newcomers, Qui Vi, Music Study, Music Appreciation, Altrusa, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Business and Professional Women, Forty and Eight, Sojourners, Garden Clubs, Home Demonstration Clubs, Aladdin, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Mason and Shriners, Elks, Eagles, Moose, Woodmen of the World, Art Association, Culture Club, Study Circle, American Association of University Women, Little Theater Guild, Jr. Welfare League, Jr. Grace Club, Eastern Star, Woman's Citizens Club and many Auxiliaries. Coordinating activities of most of these organizations is the Civic Club Council, composed of the heads of the various clubs.

MISCELLANEOUS

One daily (except Saturday) newspaper, the Huntsville Times, serves Madison County, and has a subscription of over 16,000 persons.

15,427 Motor Vehicles are registered in the County for 1950.

One out of every four persons in Madison County have radios.

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICIALS, 1951

Elective Offices

Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Commissioner, District No. One
Commissioner, District No. Two
Commissioner, District No. Three
Commissioner, District No. Four
Probate Judge
Tax Assessor
Tax Collector
Solicitor
Sheriff
Circuit Court Judge
Circuit Court Clerk
Inferior Court Judge

Officials Name

Roy L. Stone
Joe Quick
Robert C. Shelton
Dr. James L. Carpenter
James H. Turner
Thomas W. Jones
O. Howard Moore
George T. Culp
Harry Pennington
Oliver McPeters
Elbert H. Parsons
Sarah J. Daye
Douglas C. Martinson

Appointive Offices

Register of the Circuit Court
Court Reporter
Probation Officer
License Inspector
Engineer
Auditor
Gas Tax Inspector
Attorney
Director of Public Welfare
Health Officer
Forest Ranger
Superintendent of Education
Business Manager, Board of Education
Agricultural Agent
Home Demonstration Agent
Maintenance Superintendent
Veterans Service Officer
Chairman, Board of Registrars
Chairman, Jury Commission
Chairman, Board of Equalization

Officials Name, 1951

Jack Giles
Marie Moore
Tant Dowell
Albert Allison
Thomas D. Weathers
James R. Record
Burns Kelly
Robert K. Bell
Mrs. George S. Butler
Dr. Hobart Gay
Paul Rodgers
Edward Anderson
Wm. E. Popejoy
D. S. Loyd
Oenone Cook
J. E. Spencer
Frank Rice
Harry Rhett
Hershel E. Bingham
Morton M. Hutchens

ALABAMA COUNTIES, COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Name	Area In Sq. Mi.	1950 Population	% Change In Population From 1940	Date Organized	No. 1950 Dwelling Units	Taxable Wealth 1949	County Seat	1950 Pop. County Seat
Autauga	584	18,177	- 13.3	Nov. 21, 1818	4,974	8,052,042	Prattville	4,375
Baldwin	1595	41,048	27.0	Dec. 21, 1809	12,831	24,771,304	Bay Minette	3,742
Barbour	912	28,860	- 11.8	Dec. 18, 1832	7,849	7,779,960	Clayton	1,591
Bibb	634	17,955	- 10.9	Feb. 7, 1818	4,710	5,479,290	Centerville	1,153
Blount	649	28,997	- 1.7	Feb. 6, 1818	7,910	8,153,490	Oneonta	2,805
Bullock	610	16,075	- 18.9	Dec. 5, 1866	4,495	5,916,353	Union Springs	3,206
Butler	763	29,301	- 9.7	Dec. 13, 1819	7,869	9,312,558	Greenville	6,765
Calhoun	615	79,783	26.0	Dec. 18, 1832	21,400	38,573,467	Anniston	31,150
Chambers	612	39,560	- 6.1	Dec. 18, 1832	11,174	23,102,605	LaFayette	2,357
Chilton	713	26,839	- 4.0	Dec. 30, 1868	7,550	13,117,710	Clanton	4,631
Choctaw	932	19,188	- 5.0	Dec. 29, 1847	4,874	5,432,367	Butler	?
Clarke	1216	26,498	- 4.1	Dec. 10, 1812	7,075	10,377,146	Grove Hill	1,441
Clay	614	13,964	- 17.4	Dec. 7, 1866	3,927	4,249,976	Ashland	1,600
Cleburne	569	11,976	- 12.1	Dec. 6, 1866	3,306	4,774,139	Heflin	1,992
Coffee	678	30,717	- 4.0	Dec. 29, 1841	8,673	10,202,513	Elba	2,934
Colbert	618	39,413	15.6	Feb. 6, 1867	10,892	18,636,022	Tuscumbia	6,722
Conecuh	849	21,807	- 14.4	Feb. 13, 1818	5,700	6,524,150	Evergreen	3,461
Coosa	655	11,771	- 12.5	Dec. 18, 1832	3,238	6,869,556	Rockford	?
Covington	1042	40,333	- 4.9	Dec. 18, 1821	11,563	13,973,650	Andalusia	9,176
Crenshaw	618	19,013	- 19.5	Nov. 24, 1866	5,766	5,538,086	Luverne	2,215
Cherokee	577	17,455	- 12.4	Jan. 9, 1836	4,667	6,012,109	Centre	1,672
Cullman	763	49,050	3.6	Jan. 24, 1877	13,004	15,485,985	Cullman	7,524
Dale	563	20,830	- 8.2	Dec. 24, 1824	6,284	7,158,535	Ozark	5,244
Dallas	957	55,992	1.4	Feb. 7, 1818	15,314	23,321,816	Selma	22,629
DeKalb	786	45,088	4.7	Jan. 9, 1836	12,416	14,605,935	Fort Payne	6,227
Elmore	634	31,672	- 8.3	Feb. 15, 1866	9,159	26,031,412	Wetumpka	3,812
Escambia	957	31,463	2.6	Feb. 10, 1868	8,254	13,726,919	Brewton	5,157
Etowah	540	93,857	29.3	Dec. 7, 1866	26,518	52,072,917	Gadsden	55,528
Fayette	643	19,393	- 10.4	Dec. 20, 1824	5,279	7,645,562	Fayette	3,710
Franklin	647	25,790	- 6.4	Feb. 6, 1818	7,112	10,480,173	Russellville	6,019
Geneva	578	25,928	- 11.1	Dec. 26, 1868	7,463	7,632,346	Geneva	3,580
Greene	635	16,580	- 13.6	Dec. 13, 1819	4,445	5,608,839	Eutaw	2,349
Hale	646	20,828	- 18.4	Oct. 30, 1867	5,333	6,185,501	Greensboro	2,205
Henry	560	18,661	- 14.8	Dec. 13, 1819	4,707	5,254,944	Abbeville	2,158
Houston	579	46,554	1.9	Jan. 9, 1903	13,409	17,534,166	Dothan	21,556
Jackson	1140	38,795	- 7.2	Dec. 13, 1819	10,244	13,916,453	Scottsboro	4,635
Jefferson	1120	554,186	20.5	Dec. 13, 1819	160,145	487,524,600	Birmingham	298,720
Lamar	601	16,423	- 16.7	Feb. 4, 1867	4,617	5,944,384	Vernon	?
Lauderdale	694	54,183	17.2	Feb. 6, 1818	15,128	18,144,743	Florence	23,832
Lawrence	700	27,141	- 2.7	Feb. 6, 1818	7,174	7,109,565	Moulton	1,384
Lee	608	45,054	23.6	Dec. 5, 1866	12,196	17,459,352	Opelika	12,264
Limestone	596	35,712	.2	Feb. 6, 1818	9,250	12,595,558	Athens	6,264
Lowndes	739	18,034	20.4	Nov. 20, 1830	4,775	5,766,248	Hayneville	?
Macon	614	30,696	11.0	Dec. 18, 1832	7,262	8,838,170	Tuskegee	6,840
MADISON	811	73,032	10.1	Dec. 13, 1808	19,446	31,292,408	Huntsville	16,406
Marengo	966	29,460	- 17.6	Feb. 6, 1818	7,994	11,372,101	Linden	1,358
Marion	743	27,291	- 5.2	Feb. 13, 1818	7,363	7,208,402	Hamilton	1,621
Marshall	602	45,098	6.4	Jan. 9, 1836	12,595	15,519,487	Guntersville	5,269
Mobile	1226	228,835	61.2	Aug. 1, 1812	67,355	143,776,980	Mobile	127,151
Monroe	1012	25,722	- 12.7	June 29, 1815	6,690	10,125,794	Monroeville	2,787
Montgomery	805	137,512	20.2	Dec. 6, 1816	40,363	72,907,291	Montgomery	105,098
Morgan	587	52,861	9.8	Feb. 6, 1818	15,150	23,124,382	Decatur	19,879
Perry	737	20,442	- 23.2	Dec. 13, 1819	5,219	6,613,580	Marion	2,818
Pickens	875	24,359	- 12.0	Dec. 19, 1820	6,475	8,303,611	Carrollton	?
Pike	671	30,599	- 5.8	Dec. 7, 1821	8,603	10,818,627	Troy	8,474
Randolph	590	22,545	- 11.6	Dec. 18, 1832	6,190	7,357,195	Wedowee	?
Russell	655	40,289	12.6	Dec. 18, 1832	10,746	9,497,429	Phoenix City	23,285
St. Clair	648	26,636	- 2.6	Nov. 20, 1832	7,244	11,402,368	Ashville	?
Shelby	819	30,375	4.9	Feb. 7, 1818	8,228	15,005,030	Columbiana	1,763
Sumter	908	23,628	- 13.5	Dec. 18, 1832	6,035	9,451,832	Livingston	1,671
Talladega	755	63,788	23.1	Dec. 18, 1832	16,357	27,319,345	Talladega	13,186
Tallapoosa	763	34,666	- 1.7	Dec. 18, 1832	9,685	20,540,718	Dadeville	2,357
Tuscaloosa	1346	94,017	23.6	Feb. 6, 1818	23,585	50,726,981	Tuscaloosa	46,364
Walker	792	63,653	- 0.9	Nov. 21, 1818	17,083	32,464,624	Jasper	8,558
Washington	1087	15,612	- 3.6	June 4, 1800	3,829	5,860,501	Chatom	?
Wilcox	896	23,451	- 10.8	Dec. 13, 1819	5,836	7,829,508	Camden	?
Winston	630	18,245	- 2.7	Feb. 12, 1850	4,840	5,945,035	Double Springs	?



BARGE SERVICE ON THE TENNESSEE RIVER



SCENE AT ANNUAL CALF SHOW, SPONSORED BY THE MADISON COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

Dear Fellow Citizen,

This Report to the People, in the form of a Booklet containing current facts and historical data, has been presented to you by your Madison County Board of Commissioners, and we genuinely hope that its contents have better informed you of every phase of your County Government, and has again reminded you of the fine heritage that is ours—Government Of the People; By the People; and For the People.

It is the policy of the present Board to maintain your Courthouse as spotless as possible; to make every citizen feel that he is welcome and “at home”; and to make available any and all information regarding the current operation of County Government, because it is your government and your business, and you should know all the details concerning it.

Never in the history of human society, where the public was kept well informed as to their government, has Socialism, Communism or any of the queer doctrines of government made any substantial headway. Under our Democratic system, we feel it imperative to report to the people from time to time, and so long as we serve you, we will diligently strive to preserve our Democratic way of life, by keeping you advised as to your County Government. It is our sincere desire that this booklet will be studied by all our citizens, and particularly our young people—the Leaders of Tomorrow.

We are always happy to see you and members of your family in the Courthouse at all times.

Always sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ROY L. STONE,
Chairman

SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

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BETTS, *Early History of Huntsville*
TAYLOR, *History of Madison County*
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DUBOSE, *History of Alabama*
OWENS, *History of Alabama*
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CHADWICK, *Diary of Civil War Days in Huntsville*
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CARTER, *Territorial Papers of the U. S.*
MARQUIS, *Who's Who in America*
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SAUNDERS, *Early Settlers of Alabama*
HOBSON, *In Old Alabama*
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RILEY, *Alabama As It Is, Or Industrialists and Capitalists Guide Book to Alabama*
BEIRNEY, *Handbook of Alabama*
GLAZNER, *Geography of Great Appalachian Valley of Alabama*
OWEN, *Our State Alabama*
DENMAN, *The Secession Movement in Alabama*
FLEMING, *Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama*
ABERNATHY, *The Formative Period in Alabama*
WILHELM, *History of the Textile Industry of Alabama*
BROWN, *History of Alabama*
SUMMERSELL, *Alabama, Past and Future*
COOPER, *Metropolitan County (Jefferson)*
W. P. A. HISTORIES
REPORT OF THE WHITESBURG EXCAVATION (GEOLOGY DEPT. OF ALABAMA)
HIGH SCHOOL ESSAYS ON MADISON COUNTY
COUNTY AGENT REPORTS
ALABAMA TAX MONEY (BOOKLET)
HUNTSVILLE HAS WHAT IT TAKES (HUNTSVILLE INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE BOOKLET)
BALDWIN'S DIRECTORY OF HUNTSVILLE
BLUE BOOK OF SOUTHERN PROGRESS
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, BY ALABAMA AND U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
OLD NEWSPAPERS
MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS COURT FROM 1821 TO 1950
VARIOUS OLD LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS
ALABAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, DEPT. OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
BUREAU OF CENSUS
HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF
STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LOCAL AND STATE
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXAMINERS OF ACCOUNTS
INTERVIEWS WITH MANY COUNTY RESIDENTS

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MADISON COUNTY

Where **INDUSTRY** *Thrives*; **AGRICULTURE** *Progresses*; and **RECREATION** *Beckons*

- * Mother County of Alabama
- * Cotton Capital of Alabama
- * Cedar Capital of Alabama
- * First Capital of the State of Alabama, (Temporary—Huntsville)
- * Where Alabama entered the Union
- * Largest Wholesale Nursery Center in the World
- * Water Cress Capital of the World
- * First Public Waterworks in the South (Second in the U. S.)
- * Superior Road System
- * Superior Financial Rating
- * First Bookmobile Library Service in the U. S.
- * Air Center of North Alabama
- * Fifth Lowest Tax Rate in Alabama
- * Livestock Center of North Alabama
- * Only County built Boat Harbor in Alabama
- * Home of Monte Sano State Park, renowned health resort
- * Second oldest County in Alabama
- * Home of Noted Ante Bellum homes
- * Home of Redstone Arsenal, Worlds largest rocket research and guided missile development project
- * Home of the World Famous “Big Spring”
- * Lowest residential electricity rate in the State
- * Abundant water supplies
- * Home of famous State and National Statesmen
- * Where Southern Hospitality is at its best
- * Home of one of the more famous and best kept Courthouses in the Nation
- * Lower per Capita Debt than any County its size in Alabama (and possibly the entire South)
- * First River Canal in the State
- * First Rural Electricity Line in the State
- * County of Governors
- * A HISTORIC PAST; AN ILLUSTRIOUS FUTURE

APPRECIATION

Is extended to York Willbern, Director Bureau of Public Administration, University of Alabama; Reese Amis, Editor of the Huntsville Times; and the staff of the Huntsville Public Library for invaluable aid rendered in the preparation of this report.

JAMES RECORD

State of Tenn.

Limestone Co. Ala.

Jackson Co. Ala.



Livestock

Madison County

Watercross

Monte Sano Park

Nurseries

Colonial Homes

Big Spring Park

★ HUNTSVILLE

Airport

Cotton and Corn

Country Club

Industries

Fishing

Hunting

Rocket and Guided Missile
Gov. Arsenal

Water Terminal
and Boat Harbor

Tennessee River

Morgan Co. Ala.

Marshall Co. Ala.

